

HOME NEWS

Ambulance chief says people likely to die as doctors' dispute affects 23 London hospitals

By Robert Parker

As more than a third of London's 60 hospitals closed, or partly closed, their doors to emergency cases yesterday because of the doctors' dispute, the London Ambulance Service warned people that the situation was "chaotic" and that there was a high probability that it would involve deaths.

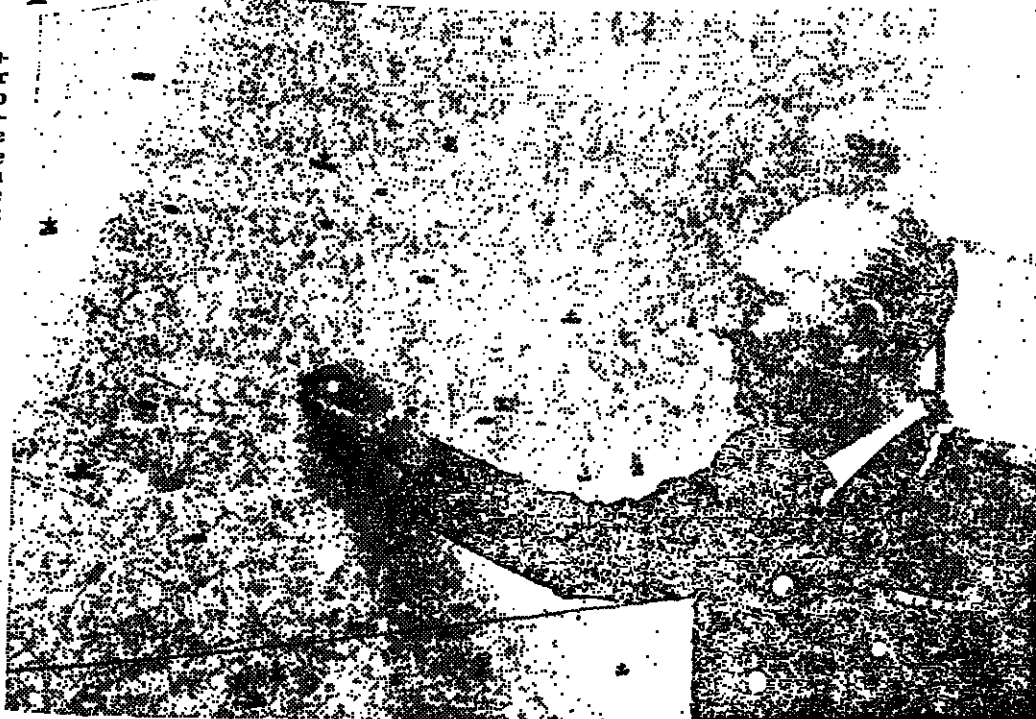
The service, which on average handles an emergency call every minute of the day, concentrated its efforts yesterday on directing ambulances to the nearest open hospital: there have been cases since Friday of an ambulance visiting three hospitals before finding one to accept its passenger.

Mr John Moss, assistant chief officer of the service, said yesterday that he was amazed that no central co-ordinating body had been set up.

"We seem to be the only body with an overall picture of what is happening," he said. "Greater London only has been able to build up from a large-scale information search: nobody has told us what is happening."

Describing the position as "critically serious," he said many ambulance journeys were three or four times longer than they would have been if the nearest hospital was receiving emergencies.

Mr Moss fears the situation might become rapidly worse. "As hospitals become affected by the dispute, emergency cases have to be taken elsewhere," he said.



Mr John Moss, of the London Ambulance Service, directing his forces yesterday as the effects of the doctors' dispute intensified.

"These alternative places then become fully-stretched, and so can no longer handle serious cases. We shall soon arrive at the position where an ever-decreasing number of hospitals have to deal with the emergencies."

He is also worried about hospitals that stop handling emergencies after 5pm. "This means that we will have even fewer places to take emergency cases to at the very time when we have the most trouble," he said.

Extra people have been called into the service's headquarters in Waterloo Road, south London, to help in the task of establishing the latest position at hospitals. Lists of hospitals affected, and how they are affected, are being continuously updated and sent out to most of Greater London's 78 ambulance stations.

Mr Moss said crews were radioing into their control centres almost every time they picked up an emergency case to find out where the nearest open hospital was.

A total of 23 hospitals were affected in London yesterday by the dispute. Some, like St Mary's, Praed Street, and St Mary's, Harrow Road, were open between 9am and 5pm.

Others, like Willesden General, Putney, and Charing Cross, were closed to emergencies. Barnes General and Edgewood General are handling emergencies on alternate days.

The worst affected area of London was the north-west, where 14 of the 18 hospitals that normally accept emergencies are totally or partly closed.

Many areas are handling emergency cases only

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that the intensification of industrial action by junior doctors coupled with the beginning of action by consultants had worsened matters generally. Although no big hospitals had closed, most had restricted admissions to emergency cases. A few small hospitals had closed and transferred patients.

In most places consultants were still considering, in consultation with junior doctors, what action to take, but in some areas they were handling only emergencies. The full effects of action by consultants would not be seen until later in the week.

The department said an increasing number of accidents and emergencies departments were closed after 5pm; some had closed and others were limiting services. Cover was being provided as far as possible by neighbouring hospitals, but that could not be regarded as adequate in all cases. Nor were consultants everywhere able to give adequate cover for the restricted services of junior doctors.

"Normal hospital work has been very considerably reduced in all its aspects, with inevitable inconvenience and potential danger to patients," the department said. All parts of the country were now affected.

Action by the National Union of Public Employees against private patients was reported from a few hospitals. The London emergency bed service continued to operate under great difficulty.

In the South of England two hospitals virtually closed yesterday. Hove General Hospital and the New Sussex Hospital in Brighton had no inpatients, but outpatients were still being seen in the X-ray and physiotherapy departments. At the Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital patients were still being treated, despite earlier plans to close the hospital.

Industrial action by juniors in the South-west generally was rather muted. Dr Iain Kidson, area spokesman for the Junior Hospital Staffs Committee, said yesterday that there might be a meeting of his committee, which represents the 1,500 junior doctors in the North-west.

In some hospitals, he said, consultants and juniors shared assembly decisions on general policy considerations, while the Government are ensuring the horrors of frequent and bitter constitutional clashes.

A federal statement was neither Parliament nor the Government could alter the assembly's decisions would be attractive if similar devolution was being proposed for the various parts of the United Kingdom.

Mr Kenneth Atkins, president of the Electricity Supply industry, has been given notice of dismissal from his job at Bams Hall power station, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, for not belonging to a recognized trade union.

He is believed to be the first power worker dismissed or facing dismissal for not belonging to one of the four unions signatory to a sole-bargaining agreement in the electricity supply industry. He has been given a week to use the appeals procedure, but has declined to justify his non-membership at the hearing in a cable.

Six other members dismissed from Bams Hall power station, West Midlands, have appealed against being put out of a job for the same reason.

At least 100 members of the ESIU are understood to have been warned by the General Electricity Generating Board that failure to belong to a recognized union will result in dismissal. Most have joined an appropriate union.

The Government has not decided whether to proceed with the proposed power industry reform, which would benefit from the dismissal of non-union members.

The Department of Employment has nine circumstances in which the Department of Health and Social Security will not pay unemployment benefit to claimants. They are:

1: In cases of misconduct.

2: Where the worker has received payment in lieu of notice.

3: Where a "golden handshake" has been paid.

4: When the claimant is on holiday abroad.

5: If the claimant is in prison.

6: If the unemployed man claims benefit for days when he would not normally have been working. That applies mainly to workers in shift.

7: Where the claimant puts unreasonable limits on the job he is seeking. For example if a navy rating, who has been accepted only as a bank manager's job.

8: Where the worker leaves his job voluntarily.

9: If he is seeking unemployment benefit for himself because he is on strike.

Moderates frustrate Mr Scargill on pit pay

By Paul Routledge

Mr Arthur Scargill, the left-wing Yorkshire miners' leader, was twice frustrated yesterday in an attempt to enlist his coalfield's support for a new fight over the TUC-government incomes policy.

Delegates to the Yorkshire area council of the National Union of Mineworkers voted down an emergency resolution from the militant Yorkshire Main pit, Doncaster, calling for renewed pursuit of a £100 wage for face workers' and opposing wage restraint.

Mr Scargill and his fellow militants bowed to rank-and-file opposition to reopening the demand for rises of up to £39 a week. They settled for a compromise formula that proposed a one-day conference to discuss the left-overs of the last wage agreement.

The Yorkshire miners will ask the union's national executive to convene a delegate conference to debate the leadership's alleged failure to negotiate a better rate for several thousand workers driving headings (tunnels to new faces) in the pits.

That proposal is linked to a general statement on miners' pay seeking fresh internal discussion on wages because of economic "uncertainty" prevailing in the economy. From that preamble to the plight of top-paid heading workers all reference to the £100 claim and the TUC-government incomes policy was dropped after moderate protests from the floor.

Mr Scargill, who was forced yesterday to take two steps back from the original militant resolution, voted in favour of the £5 claim when the NUM executive voted 14 to 9 for following the wages norm last month. His coalfield voted 51 per cent for wage moderation in the August pithead ballot.

Preliminary talks on the NUM claim will take place with the National Coal Board on December 9.

But despite yesterday's clear signs that Yorkshire delegates regard the £100 issue as over, Mr Scargill may seek to use the call for a one-day conference to reopen the pay debate.

He said yesterday: "In view of existing inflation, there should be a reconsideration in the union's position on wages." Asked whether he thought the union executive would accede to the Yorkshire demand, he said: "I am not clairvoyant."

The executive meets next on December 11. Moderates who enjoy a small but decisive majority, are almost certain to veto a return to a militant attitude.

More hospital doctors in north Humberside joined the 40-hour week industrial action campaign yesterday but there was little immediate effect. Hull Royal Infirmary and other city hospitals were not affected.

A hundred hospital consultants in the North-east health district yesterday began handling emergency operations only. The service in Norfolk had been badly affected by restricted working involving 90 junior hospital doctors.

Cromer Hospital stopped handling all accident and emergency cases and no more patients were being admitted. The two main Norwich hospitals also were affected.

At the North Staffordshire Hospital Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mr Donald Woolmer, the hospital secretary, said that many basic services might be cut back. The weekend has been a cause of the junior doctors' 40-hour week campaign.

In north Derbyshire the dispute was making a serious situation worse. While junior doctors were continuing to provide cover for emergency cases, the hospital at Chesterfield Royal Hospital said it was not yet clear about the position of consultants.

In Wales, Pontypool General Hospital was being run down ahead of closure plans and similar action was being taken at St. Lawrence Hospital, Chepstow.

Only 26 patients, a fifth of capacity, remained at Merthyr Tydfil General Hospital. The casualty ward at Port Talbot General Hospital closed yesterday and surgical admissions ceased.

Mr James, aged 31, of Morton Street, Liverpool; Francis Wylie, aged 27, of Ravenhill Road, Belfast; Norman Kinner, aged 34, of Highvale Gardens, Belfast; Alan Tyrrel, aged 24, of Lilac Grove, Huxton near Liverpool; and Harry Lloyd, aged 40, of Beatrix Street, Liverpool, have all denied a conspiracy charge.

Mr James told the jury that if the finding of an anti-IRA poster at Mr James's home was evidence of terrorist activity then Mrs Margaret Thatcher, when she called for the return of the death penalty for terrorists, was just as guilty.

The trial continues today, when Mr Justice Canley will begin his summing up.

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UDA says it planted Dublin airport bombs

From a Staff Reporter

The Ulster Defence Association claims responsibility yesterday for the explosion at Dublin airport on Saturday which killed a baggage loader and injured several people.

In a brief statement, which was confirmed as authentic at the organization's headquarters in east Belfast, the UDA military command said: "The explosion was taken in retaliation for the murder of members of the security forces by the Provisional IRA operating unhindered from the haven of the Republic with the blessing of the Dublin government."

Later, the Royal Ulster Constabulary announced that an investigation had been launched into the claim, which was issued in the absence of the UDA's commander, Arthur Tyrrel, who was found in Holland after attending a paramilitary conference which included leaders of Provisional Sinn Féin.

Security forces north and south of the border feared the carefully planned assault would mark a new phase in "loyalist" tactics which have so far concentrated largely on sectarian killings in Ulster.

The UDA's admission was strongly condemned by Protestant and Roman Catholic politicians in Northern Ireland, who unlikely to lead to any immediate action by the Government. A representative of the official Unionists, one of the

three parties in the loyalist coalition, said: "We are disgusted by the vile brutality of those who have claimed the Dublin airport bombing. For a so-called loyalist paramilitary group to take reprisals on the same weekend as it is apparently holding talks with the IRA is both hypocritical and sinister."

Meanwhile, Mr Rees, the Secretary of State, ordered the release of 10 detainees yesterday, at the same time lifting detention orders from 10 others who are also serving sentences of imprisonment and will continue until they have been served.

His action reduces to 73 the number of those still detained, of whom 26 also have sentences to serve. A Government representative said yesterday that 20 of those were due to complete their sentences before Christmas.

Mr Rees issued a long statement to explain the reasoning behind his policy, which has come under heavy criticism in recent weeks. Since detention was first introduced the nature of violence has changed, the degree of common criminality has become so marked, the random and uncontrolled nature of that criminality so widespread, that different methods are needed to combat it and to deal with its perpetrators," he said. "What we must and will achieve in Northern Ireland is a restoration of respect for the rule of law."

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Grant to buy Donatello for nation is refused

By Our Staff Room

The Victoria and Albert Museum is not to receive government grant towards purchase of Donatello's "Virgin Child", Mr Jenkins, the Secretary in the Department of Education and Science, said yesterday in reply to a parliamentary question.

The museum needs £100,000 to buy the sculpture from an American dealer. Mr Jenkins said the Government was not prepared to grant "in the present economic situation" although the result of the museum's appeal was known to be considered a loan.

The Renaissance sculpture, considered to be the most important still in private hands. When, in 1971, the museum drew up a list of the most important privately owned sculptures in Britain, that should be saved from export, the Donatello was confidentially valued at £250,000. The museum has the chance of acquiring masterpiece at well below market value.

Dr Roy Strong, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, last night said that he had to struggle to raise money. "One would have to ask the Government to make a loan for good what was from the public," he said.

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HOME NEWS

Grant to
Donated
for nation
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The museum's sculpture of the late Sir Alan Turing, unveiled at the Royal Society's anniversary.

Cabinet needs a chief
scientific adviser

By Our Science Correspondent

The Government's reluctance to appoint a chief scientific adviser to the Cabinet has been criticised yesterday by Sir Alan Turing, a leading scientist and a member of the Royal Society.

Speaking at the anniversary of the Royal Society, Sir Alan said that there was a serious deficiency in the present scientific advice to the Government.

"The need for central scientific advice is acute if the country is to face a sudden change in the scientific and technological scene," he said. "The need for central scientific advice is acute if the country is to face a sudden change in the scientific and technological scene."

Sir Alan, who was one of the first to develop the concept of a computer, said that the Government's reluctance to appoint a chief scientific adviser was a major deficiency in the present scientific advice to the Government.

"The need for central scientific advice is acute if the country is to face a sudden change in the scientific and technological scene," he said. "The need for central scientific advice is acute if the country is to face a sudden change in the scientific and technological scene."

Nalgo to oppose planned
public expenditure cuts

By Our London Correspondent

The National Association of Local Government Officers' (Nalgo) has warned the Government that it will not cooperate with moves to cut public expenditure.

Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of the National and Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) said yesterday: "There will be no increase in public expenditure over the next five years."

Drain, speaking at Guildford, added: "We have co-operated fully with the Government over pay, but it is no longer cooperation which is the fabric of society."

Government, he said, must save the economy by the ordinary citizen's reasonable expectation of a decent life for which he paid heavily through taxation.

"I am gravely concerned at the backward calls for cuts in public expenditure as though this were the simple, once and for all answer to our economic problems."

The rate-support grant was not enough to cover services decently, and more money had to be found unless Britain was to veer towards an uncaring and heartless society in which the weak went to the wall.

Mr Drain was certain that the so-called standstill of the rate-support grant would mean cuts in schools, old people's homes and hospitals unless what he called the forces of good sense could be rallied.

Complaints about the growth of the public sector could be answered by pointing out that in the past five years there had been 68 Acts of Parliament and a thousand associated circulars. That had been coupled with vast reorganizations in local government, health and water services.

Graham Hill
service at St
Albans Abbey

By Our Motoring Correspondent

The funeral service for Mr Graham Hill, the former world champion racing driver, who was killed in an air crash near Elstree, Hertfordshire, at the weekend, will be held at St Albans Abbey on Friday at 2.15 pm.

His widow has requested that only family flowers should be sent but donations may be made to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, Middlesex, where Mr Hill was treated after breaking his legs in a crash in the Indianapolis Grand Prix.

Victims named: The other two victims of the light aircraft crash in which four people died at Birmingham airport were named yesterday as Mr Arthur Penzer, aged 52, property developer, and Miss Betsy Kidd, aged 37, both of Danford Lane, Solihull. They were returning from a holiday.

UK told to leave
cemetery site

Britain has been told to vacate the Uta Pan Dan military cemetery in Singapore by next April because the Government wants to redevelop the land.

The Ministry of Defence in London said the minister would make a statement about it shortly.

Campaign to
protect
elderly from
the cold

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

A campaign with the slogan "Keep an eye on Gran" started in Birmingham yesterday to try to protect about 19,000 elderly people who might be at risk from hypothermia in the next few months. About 135,000 people in the city are aged 65 and over.

Birmingham social service department said it estimated that there were more than 41,000 pensioners living alone, 14,000 of them women over 75 who were considered to be particularly vulnerable. About 5,500 were housebound and immobile.

A recent survey in London showed that a fifth of people over the age of 75 could expect to suffer from some degree of hypothermia during winter.

The campaign's main objectives are to help young people to visit the elderly, particularly relatives, and to give simple advice on how to prepare for winter. An official said: "Too many people assume that an elderly person does not want help, has relatives or is already receiving regular visits. We want every younger person to think about the elderly person who lives near him or her."

Mr William Turner, chairman of the social service committee, said: "We need far more involvement by the public in the care of the elderly. Every year we dread a bad winter."

"It is to deal with possible crises as well as to carry out an overall coordinating and advisory function that the post should be filled."

Sir Alan developed an argument in terms of the present economic crisis for those who thought the first example was a fanciful notion. Sooner or later the Government would have to face up to the fact that the country's scientific and technological resources were being squandered.

Difficult times still faced scientists in universities and research institutes, Sir Alan said.

He expressed concern over the effects of the reorganization of the way the Government supported research among the universities and scientific research institutes through the agricultural, medical and natural environment research councils. In his view the three organizations were most severely hampered by the changes.

In the current year £20m of a total of £56m that would have been allocated exclusively to the three councils was being transferred for spending by ministries such as agriculture, health and social security, environment, trade, and industry.

New road inquiries put conservationists on their mettle

Flushed with success over Aire Valley, the protesters will be out in force at two places

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Two more public inquiries into projected new roads begin today as the Government considers new rules to prevent disruption by protesters. One inquiry concerned the proposed M18 Doncaster by-pass; the other will examine planned improvements to the A30 in west Cornwall.

Conservationists, flushed by their success in forcing the postponement until February 3 of the inquiry into the Aire Valley route in west Yorkshire, are expected to be out in force in both places.

The Aire Valley inquiry had been due to begin today, but Mr Croxall, Secretary of State for the Environment, is now considering the inspector's request for "guidance".

Since Mr John Tynes, of the militant Conservation Society, declared his opposition to all

new motorways, civil servants at the Department of the Environment have been wearing a rather beleaguered look. The question they are asking is whether the rules governing inquiries can be tightened without threatening the public's right to make their views felt. Should, for instance, the present quasi-judicial procedure be given a more formal legal status, and should the right to speak be limited to those who can prove a direct interest?

Apart from their dislike of large new roads on environmental grounds, conservationists have attacked the whole concept of the inquiries. Their two main objections are that schemes are too often looked at in isolation and not enough information is given about long-term plans; and, more important, that such inquiries are not independent because the Department of the Environment is putting forward proposals on which it will eventually adjudicate.

Many conservationists are also incensed by the Government's refusal to answer questions on the validity of its traffic forecasts on which the need for new roads are assessed. Department officials concede that the forecasts prepared by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, are largely guesswork, but maintain they are the most scientific obtainable.

Once a decision in principle has been taken to build a new

Should the rules be
tightened without
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Once a decision in principle has been taken to build a new

road the plans are placed in what is known as the "preparation pool". Two years ago the Government decided that at that stage the public should be "consulted" over the route.

In the Commons last month Mr Giles Shaw, Conservative MP for Pudsey, suggested that responsibility for consultation should be taken away from the department's own road construction units. But Mr Neil Carmichael, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, pointed out that a consultation exercise was no referendum but a two-way process, informing local people of possible routes as much as seeking their views.

The inquiry stage is not reached until the department has chosen and published its preferred route. Paradoxically, if it is the one most favoured by local residents, who naturally prefer it to be as far away as possible from their homes, it is all the more likely

to offend those who resent the loss of open countryside.

Senior civil servants would strongly dispute Mr Tynes' contention that road inquiries are illegal, but they privately concede that the protesters have a point about lack of information.

"It is a valid criticism that we are a bit inept about presentation, and that we should hold a public inquiry into a complete project and not piece by piece", one of them remarked.

As far as the independence of an inquiry is concerned, they point out that inspectors are chosen not from the department's own panel but from outside the Civil Service.

Traffic forecasts cannot and should not, it is said, be challenged at each and every inquiry. The proper place to debate national transport policies, and the question of making greater use of rail and watersways, is Parliament.

Guernsey plans
20pc tax rate

Guernsey's standard rate of income tax should remain at 20pc in the pound for the seventeenth year in succession, the island's Advisory and Finance Committee has recommended in its annual Budget published yesterday.

In addition there should be no changes in existing rates of indirect tax, except for the small Isle of Alderney, and personal tax allowances should be improved.

Woman to get £36,000 from Nkrumah will

An Englishwoman is to get more than £36,000 from the estate of Dr Kwame Nkrumah, the former President of Ghana, who died three and a half years ago.

Mrs June Milne, of Park View, Hatch End, Middlesex, was granted a declaration in the High Court yesterday that she is entitled to royalties paid by publishers into a London bank account of the late president.

Mrs Milne met Dr Nkrumah

when she was teaching in the Gold Coast before independence. She now runs a publishing company, Panaf Books Ltd, which has published some of Dr Nkrumah's writings.

At the time of his death Dr Nkrumah was reputed to have a personal fortune of at least £2.3m. When his English will was published he was said to have left an estate of £6,250 in England and Wales, but that proved to be an underestimate.

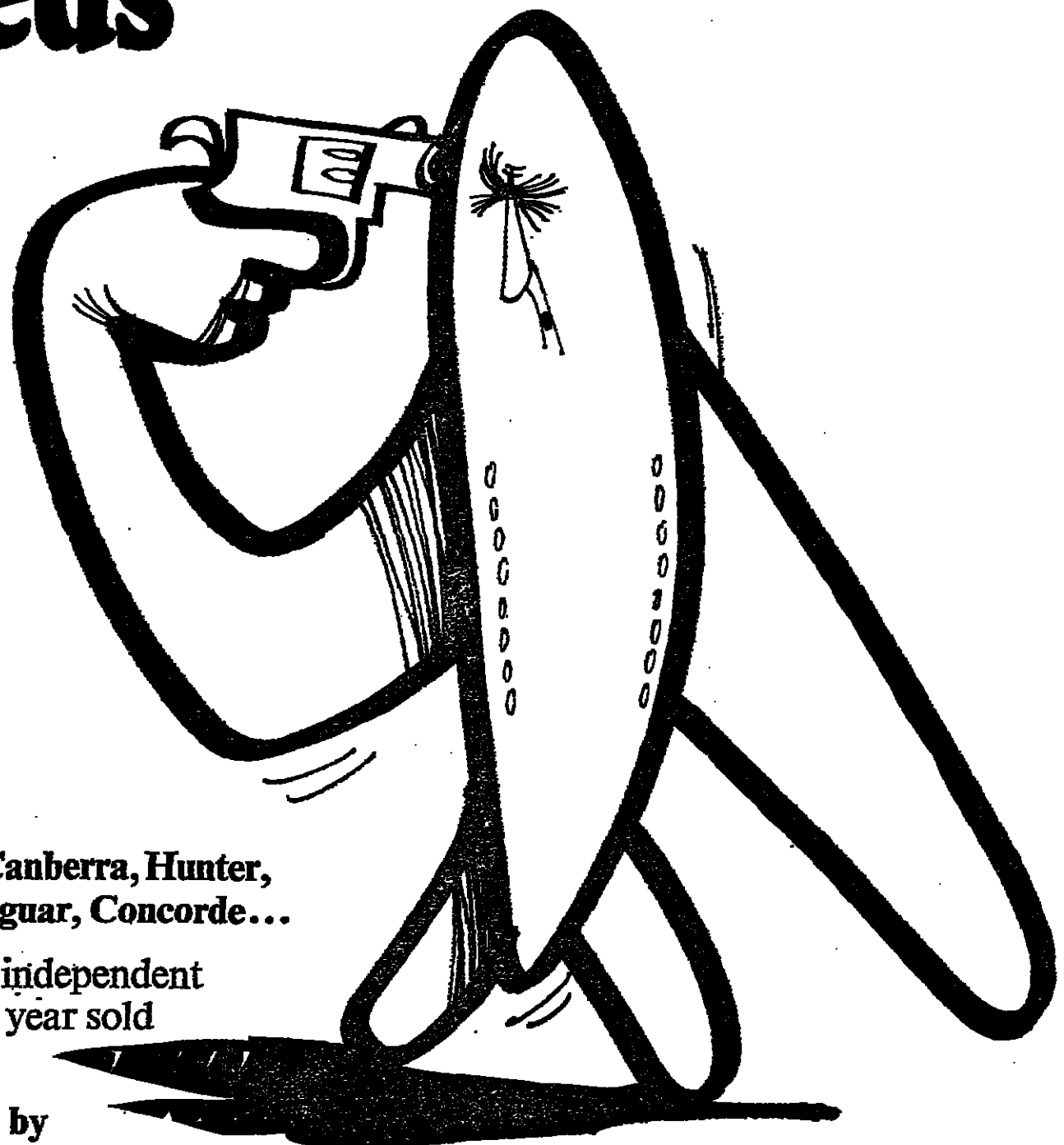
Sir Anthony Plowman, the

Julia Stonehouse
on drug charge

Julia Stonehouse, aged 24, a company director, of Bramham Gardens, South Kensington, London, was released until January 6 on bail of £50 at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, accused of misuse of drugs.

Rodger Hernandez, aged 30, of the same address, a disc jockey and car dealer, was remanded in custody to December 8 on a similar charge and one of conspiring with others to defraud London clearing banks.

Britain's aircraft industry needs nationalisation like it needs a hole in the head!



Spitfire, Hurricane, Comet, Viscount, Canberra, Hunter, Lightning, VC-10, Trident, Harrier, Jaguar, Concorde...

These famous planes were built by an independent aircraft industry. An industry that last year sold £631,000,000 in exports.

Now the aircraft industry is threatened by nationalisation. The Government wants to grab the successful British aerospace companies.

Not because they need it.
Not because they will be more efficiently run by Whitehall.
Not because they're not earning currency for Britain.

The nationalisation plan is simply political dogma.
For this country, and for you, it could be one of the most mischievous pieces of politics ever.

Drop the state grab of the aircraft industry NOW!

If you feel strongly that Britain's aircraft industry should NOT be nationalised, you should write to your MP at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

7

y driver accused
hardt Grunewald, aged 36,
y driver, was remanded
sody for seven days by
rates at Dover yesterday,
d of trying to smuggle
0 cigars in the trailer of
rry.

A recent investigation carried out by the Tavistock Institute for Human Relations into the reliability of identifications by witnesses produced further evidence of fallibility. Of 68 people who spent two minutes in a room with an actor, 21 later picked out someone else on an identity parade.

Mrs Jean Thompson, aged 44, of Pennington, near Upton, who said she represented a group of women in the Furness area who were uneasy about the unloading of the radioactive material, braved a gale and pouring rain to watch the unloading. Afterwards she said that nothing she had seen had upset her mind at rest.

Officials of British Nuclear Fuels invited her to use the special facilities provided for the press in the site's Portoglenne, near Pennington, to meet the press. The site's public relations manager, of the Safety and Environment Group at Windscale, said she would give a talk to her organization if invited.

It was heard that it was fraudulent. It was rather like having a little bottle of perfume and slipping it through the customs."

The committee decided that warning was sufficient punishment for Dr Hudson. No suspension order was made.

Work as cab driver: The committee instructed a doctor who worked as a minicab driver while suspended. Dr Jit Elia Candathi, of Biggin Hill, Kent, was suspended in July last for appearing at Croydon Crown court charged with obtaining money by deception from Bromley Area Health Authority.

Work in practice: Dr Sukumar Markar, of Rochdale Greater Manchester, was allowed to continue working in practice. He appeared before the committee. He was suspended in November last year after being fined by Rochdale magistrates for unlawfully procuring pethidine for the purpose of keeping a proper register.

...dark pictures.
 Madame Françoise Tempora,
 owner of a London gallery,
 which is backing Mr. Vale's
 efforts, was asked if the public
 would visit the galleries if oil
 paintings might be exhibited
 there. She admitted that it was
 a pity.
 Details of the plan have been
 sent to the National and Queen's
 galleries in London, and the
 Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam,
 where Rembrandt's "The Night
 Watch" was damaged recently.
 For my replies have been
 sent to the National and Queen's
 galleries, and the directors of
 the museums hope for a good
 response to limited edition
 prints; the world rights have
 been reserved in the owner of a
 new art gallery, Mr. John
 Agnew, and the artist, Andrew
 Weir, of the greeting card
 industry.

The National Council for Civil Liberties is to ask Mr Jenkins, Secretary of State for the Home Office, to inquire into violent incidents at a meeting the council held in Manchester on Sunday and which says were caused by members of the Black Front.

The meeting had been called to protest against the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Six people were injured in fighting which broke out after about 40 members of the National Front, wearing black armbands arrived.

Mr Jack Dromey, chairman of the NCCL, said yesterday that a clear message was that the Black Front was a "fascist" effort by the extreme right in Manchester to use violence against political opponents to deny rights of free speech and assembly.

Mr Kingsley Head, chairman of the NCCL, said yesterday that Mr Dromey's allegation that Mr Dromey's allegation was "poppycock". He said deplored violence.

Keymoon 'on t

... and fined £1,600 each with
... months' imprisonment in
...ault. They pleaded guilty to
...iding in false annual accounts
... P. F. La Roche and Co, of
...ch they were directors, in
...2 and 1973.

Mr La Roche pleaded guilty
...two charges of sending false
...gements to the Inland
...venue relating to rents re-
...ceived for two flats he owned.

La Roche pleaded guilty
...two charges of falsifying
...uments required for account-
...poses.

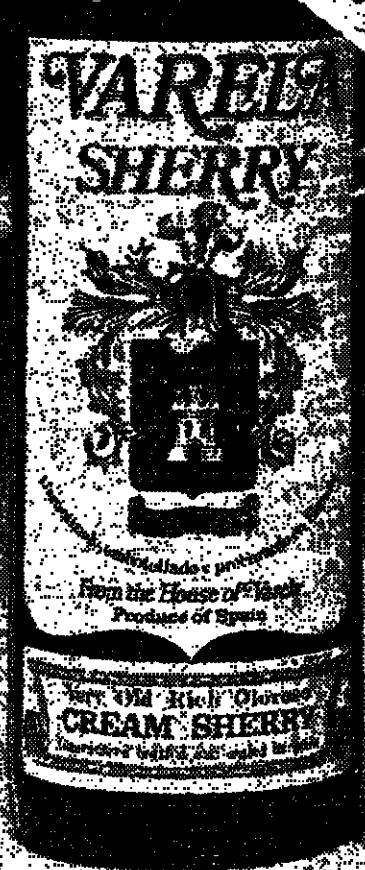
...the couple pleaded not guilty
...six other inland Revenue
...erges and their pleas were
...pproved by the court.

Mr. Hadden said the couple were hidden through the books of the company. Such basic items as the family supermarket bill and a newspaper bill were paid through the company's books. The journey abroad by their son had been recorded in the books covering business travel. The overseas business travel. The company was fine at the time and did not have been doing much business in relation to the business, counsel added.

Mr. Hadden said annual purchases were about £40,000 and sales £50,000. Mr. and Mrs. La Roche were drawing out of the company £1,000 a month. There was £3,000 company tax paid and £3,000 personal tax outstanding.

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WEST EUROPE

Council of the Realm meets to propose candidates for Spain's highest political posts

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Dec 1

The Council of the Realm met in Madrid today to draw up a short list of candidates for the presidency of the Spanish Republic and possibly for the post of prime minister as well.

As they met, the council was aware of a new hunger strike by the formidable Catalan nationalist, Father Luis Maria Xirriach, a Roman Catholic priest who has been the catalyst for the Nobel peace prize, in favour of a general amnesty for political prisoners and political exiles.

The call for amnesty made by a similar appeal made by Spain's best known, albeit illegal, labour leader, Señor Marcelino Camacho, a member of the outlawed workers' commission, who is freed from prison by a similar appeal made in Madrid on Sunday under a pardon granted by King Juan Carlos.

The Council of the Realm, which has the duty of proposing candidates for the nation's highest offices, was summoned to meet because the term of office of Señor Alejandro Rodríguez de Valcarlos as president of the Cortes, expired last week on the day before the King's formal inauguration ceremonies.

There were also unofficial but reliable reports that Señor Carlos Arias Navarro, the Prime Minister, had offered his resignation to the newly installed King over the weekend. If so, and if the King had decided to accept the resignation, then the Council of the Realm might also be considering in its present meeting a list of three names for the premiership as well as three for the post of president of the Cortes.

Interest among Spain's best-known politicians, both those inside and outside the establishment, was today divided between the question of the release of political prisoners and speculation on who might fill the two key vacancies.

One of those whose name was most often mentioned in connection with the Cortes post was Señor Torcuato Fernández-Miranda, the man who served as deputy prime minister under the political appointee Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco.

So far as the premiership was concerned, besides names mentioned before—such as those of

Germans offer to mediate in cod war

From Dan van der Vat Bonn, Dec 1

West Germany today offered to mediate in the fisheries dispute between Britain and Iceland.

Herr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry, spoke on the telephone this morning with Mr Roy Hattersley, his opposite number in London.

Herr Wischnewski told reporters he was in regular contact not only with London but also with Reykjavik. A new fisheries agreement between Iceland and West Germany came into force on Friday, whereupon German trawlers resumed fishing in specified areas within the disputed 200-mile limit, which Bonn still does not accept.

Our Diplomatic Staff writes: Herr Wischnewski appears to believe that the West German agreement with Iceland for an annual catch of 60,000 tons is a hoped-for precedent for Britain, since it represents only a small reduction on the previous year's German catch of 80,000 tons. A comparable cut in the British catch—around 140,000 tons last year—would produce a figure not far short of the last British offer of 110,000 tons made a fortnight ago in Reykjavik. But Iceland offered only 65,000 tons.

Michael Horsnell reports from the support ship Miranda off south-east Iceland: Gunboats continued to shadow the British trawler fleet yesterday but security precautions prevented them from firing.

The frigate Brighton was alerted when an unidentified gunboat shone its searchlights before dawn on the trawlers from Grimsby. But it is believed that the gunboat was not fishing at the time.

Later the gunboat Ter harassed the trawlers, Boston Stirling and Irvana, but both had time to haul in their nets, and the Ter withdrew.

Catches were reported good when the weather eased in Force 7 after the severe gales of the weekend.

Prices up: A combination of the cod war problems and bad weather on the fishing grounds forced fish prices up, with cod sides in Britain yesterday. At Hull prices rose by between 10p and 40p per stone. Cod fillets were 55.60 a stone—40p more than last week—and haddock 55.30 a stone—a rise of 30p.

OVERSEAS



Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and Mr Nkomo, the nationalist leader, signing an agreement in Salisbury yesterday to negotiate a constitutional settlement.

Israel rejects UN Golan decision as surrender to Syrian blackmail

From Eric Marsden Jerusalem, Dec 1

The Israel Cabinet today rejected the Security Council decision over the renewal of the mandate of the Golan Heights peacekeeping force and condemned council members for "knuckling under to Syrian blackmail."

Israel will not take part in the planned Security Council meeting which is to be attended by the Palestine Liberation Organization, it was decided.

The Cabinet statement was more restrained than public reaction. It refrained from criticism of the United States failure to use its veto which has come as a shock to Israelis.

It emphasized that Israel would uphold its renewal of the mandate of the United Nations disengagement observer force on the Golan Heights. This decision was made known in advance during last week's visit to Jerusalem by Dr Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General. But the Cabinet said Israel's endorsement of the United Nations force's mandate was on the basis of reciprocity, which included the prevention of terrorism.

Syria would be held responsible for any murderous activities by terrorists coming from its territory. Steps would be taken to increase security on the northern border and strengthen settlements along it.

Denouncing the Security Council's decision, the Cabinet said that by linking the renewal of the mandate with political issues, the council was acting against the move towards negotiations without prior conditions in peace in the Middle East.

The statement recalled last month's Knesset decision not to cooperate with any United Nations body set up to act on General Assembly resolutions on Zionism and the Palestinian issue. It reaffirmed Israel's refusal to negotiate with terrorists.

Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, is to make a full statement to the Knesset tomorrow on the Security Council resolution and the accompanying statement by the chairman indicating that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will be invited to the January meeting.

All Cabinet ministers were present at today's meeting. Mr Yigal Alon, the Foreign Minister, postponed a flight to London. The Cabinet reached agreement after a lively and emotional debate in which the majority showed hawkish tendencies.

S African Air Force plane lost in Angola

Pretoria, Dec 1—A South African Air Force reconnaissance aircraft with three men on board has disappeared over Angola, defence headquarters announced today. This was the first aircraft lost by South Africa since its aircraft are being spotted missions over Angola.

The statement said that on board, an Army captain and two Air Force second lieutenants were missing, believed dead.

There was no indication whether the aircraft was shot down or had crashed accidentally. The only area identified for its course was the "no military zone," a reference to the region near the border between South-West Africa (Namibia) and Angola.

Confirmation of the death of the three men would bring to 15 the number of South Africans said to have been killed in the border area over the past four weeks—Reuter.

Nicholas Ashford writes from Johannesburg: There is growing concern in South Africa that the civil war in Angola is seriously threatening South Africa's attempt to achieve "detente" with black Africa.

In particular it is feared that last week's appeal by Mr P. W. Botha, the Defence Minister for the West to help to prevent the Soviet Union from establishing a permanent presence in Angola, coupled with the war, may have had the opposite effect to the one intended.

Pretoria's saffron-rattling appears to have caused a number of black African states to reconsider their position towards the warring factions in Angola.

Nigeria has recognized the left-wing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) because of South Africa's presence in Angola.

Ethiopia says its future move will be determined by the fate of South Africa's involvement in Angola.

President Amin of Uganda, the chairman of the Organization of African Unity, has warned the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), who are opposing the MPLA, that African leaders may now have to review their attitudes towards these two movements.

Rome: FNLA representatives attending an international conference of Christian democratic parties said their movement had nothing to do with the South African troops involved in the Angolan war.

Freed labour leader sees rise of democracy

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Dec 1

The release of Señor Marcelino Camacho, leader of Spain's illegal workers' movement, after three-and-a-half years in prison for political activities, will give an indication of the Government's intentions to democratize. What Señor Camacho does now, and how long he remains free, will be a test of the Government's tolerance in the post-Franco era.

"I am a militant worker," he said today, relaxing in his flat in the Madrid working class district of Carabanchel, only a few miles away from the prison. "I intend to continue to defend the rights of workers." His name is known to every factory in Spain, probably better than that of the Minister of Labour, and he said he was himself appointed to that post.

With a pile of telegrams by his side and a vase of carnations prepared by his wife, Josefa, just before he came out of prison, Señor Camacho radiated optimism.

"I haven't the least doubt that the death of Franco means the entry into action of workers and the democratic forces. The pressure from the people for democratic change is going to increase, and our democratic freedoms will eventually be achieved. I am frankly optimistic—but not because anything has changed at the top, only because everything is possible with pressure from below."

"Also there is a sense of responsibility. Workers now more than ever are aware of their responsibility to the whole community. We don't want to turn everything upside down. We don't want to imprison everyone who has imprisoned us. We want freedom for everybody as in Western Europe. I have spent 14 years in prison, including several in a concentration camp after the civil war, and I don't want to take my revenge on anyone."

Señor Camacho was freed under King Juan Carlos's general pardon, which he considers restrictive. "We want an amnesty. I and a few others were let out because the Government wants to use our names politically. The fundamental question is what the people want."

"First there must be an amnesty, then the restoration of freedom of association, speech and the right to strike, and then the people must be consulted. We are not against the King if he introduces democracy."

"A republic is the system that most workers would like to see. But if the King consults the country and the majority want a monarchy, then we will respect that decision."

Communists in Lisbon may now cooperate

From Michael Knipe Lisbon, Dec 1

As Portugal enjoyed a public holiday today, hopes were being expressed that after the defeat of the left-wing military rebellion last week the Communist Party might moderate its tactics.

The prospect was being seen in the re-emerging newspapers—although without much confidence—that the party might now be prepared to operate more fully within the multi-party democratic structure in the style of its counterparts in France and Italy.

There is speculation that in return for such a pledge the opposition, and the Communist Party, might be accepted as a European-style party, accepting democracy, universal suffrage and the wishes of the people.

Today's holiday was introduced unexpectedly by the military Revolutionary Council to mark the anniversary of independence from Spain in 1640.

It has provided an opportunity for the Communist Party to consolidate their control over the country. With most of the population relaxing, police and troops manned road blocks in connexion apparently with the search which is under way for weapons held by civilians.

Leading article, page 13

Hint of French participation in European arms plans

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 1

Dr Joseph Luns, the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, hinted today that ways may now be found to associate France with its European partners in streamlining arms production.

Dr Luns was addressing the assembly here of the Western European Union (WEU), a grouping of parliamentarians from Britain and the original six countries of the Community, which tackles defence problems.

He was careful not to indicate preference for any particular forum for this eventual coordination. But he said, in reply to a question from Lord Sandys (Conservative, Britain) that France was showing great interest within the limits she had imposed upon herself, in the harmonization of weapons systems.

One such forum which has been canvassed for some time is the WEU's own standing committee on armaments. But the interest of the parliamentarians this session is also directed towards the proposal made on November 5 by the defence ministers of the Eurogroup—European Nato members with the exception of France, Portugal and Greece—that Paris should now be invited to join an independent body, with no direct links to Nato, in order to develop European arms coordination.

Dr Luns emphasized today that the Eurogroup was not Nato.

The possibility that France might come closer to collaborating with its European partners, owing to the growing difficulties faced by its armaments industry which employs 700,000 people, has, however, already alarmed the Gaullists. M Michel Debré, the former Prime Minister and now the guardian of Gaullist orthodoxy, put down a question in Parliament today on the reports of participation in the Eurogroup would justify be considered as a disguised but real reintegration of France in Nato, he declared.

Reagan doubts on President's visit to China

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 1

Mr Ronald Reagan, who is challenging Mr Ford for the Republican presidential nomination, has gently expressed the conservatives' displeasure at the implicit kowtow in Mr Ford making the second successive presidential visit to China.

"Frankly I have to wonder if it is not time for China to come visit us," the former Governor of California said in a national television interview today.

Mr Reagan, without attacking President Ford directly, said that he hoped Mr Ford was successful in his desire for improving the chances for peace. But he echoed the old China lobby in insisting that no improvement in relations with Communist China should be at the price of sacrificing United States relations with Taiwan.

"Taiwan is an ally. I believe Taiwan as a trade partner is an economic force in the world far in excess of mainland China," Mr Reagan said, criticizing the agreement limiting nuclear weapons delivery systems concluded at Vladivostok a year ago by President Ford and Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader.

He complained that the United States had forgotten, in the ceilings agreement, to have a mutual ceiling place on missile "throw-weight." "If we are going to have a number of trade agreements and they are going to have a number of great big rocks, it's not apt to be an even contest if we start throwing at each other."

Mr Reagan was felt by observers to have floundered in failing to explain one of his main campaign promises—a plan to divert \$50,000m (£45,000m) from federal to local government agencies.

Ford rescue Bill may just save New York City

From Frank Vogt Washington, Dec 1

New York City will have exhausted its own cash reserves by the end of next week, but congressional officials said today that it is now most probable that action on President Ford's rescue proposals will be sufficiently swift to enable Government loans to reach the city just in time.

Members of the banking committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives said today that negotiations are now taking place between congressional leaders and White House officials on a Bill.

The sources said that the negotiations should not lead to substantive changes in the President's proposals.

The schedule now seen as most probable is that the House of Representatives will start a debate on the rescue Bill tomorrow, or on Wednesday at the latest, and that it will be approved by both Houses of Congress by early next week.

Some amendments, however, may be made to the Bill to ensure that New York City's accounts are audited by a federal Government agency, that

New outbreak of shooting kills five in Lebanon

Beirut, Dec 1—A rash of kidnappings and shootings between Muslim and Christian gunmen jolted government efforts to restore law and order and began work on a new reconciliation programme.

Police reported that at least five people had been killed, four of them in clashes in the Zahleh region, east of Beirut. In Tripoli, Lebanon's second largest city, Muslim left-wingers fought right-wing Christians in a mortar battle.

The security situation in the capital deteriorated when several kidnappings occurred around the Kantari sector. Apparently they were Muslim retaliation for the reported kidnapping of the son of a Kurdish left-wing leader, Mr Jamil Mohd.

Some banks opened in the central commercial district but generally the area was deserted and few shops or business houses bothered to open in the supposedly safe areas of Beirut.

Woman took hungry wolf for pet dog

Munich, Dec 1—Armed police hunting a hungry wolf through Munich today found a woman strapping it thinking it was an albatross. They fired an anaesthetic dart into it and returned it to the zoo.

EEC long-term forecasts proposed

From Richard Wigg Paris, Dec 1

The European Community was told by Lord Kennet in Paris today that if it intended to survive it must adopt the techniques of long-term forecasting used by the multi-national corporations. Lord Kennet is director of the Europe Plus Thirty study. He was making public the results of a feasibility study on how to ascertain the possible developments affecting the progress of Europe over the next 30 years.

The task had been entrusted to a group of 40 government officials, businessmen, scientists, economists, and intellectuals by the Council of Ministers in January, 1974. The report was handed to M Francois-Xavier Ortoli, the president of the

Kidnappers release Belgian radio pair

Brussels, Dec 1—Two Belgian National Radio (RNB) announcers were released today after being kidnapped today by students protesting at proposed cuts in government spending on universities.

The radio director, Mr Emile Henseval, said a man claiming to be a Brussels University student telephoned RNB to say that the announcers, Mrs Michele Cedric and Mr Claude Delcroix, were seized this morning.

The caller said the kidnapping was to draw public attention to the reductions proposed by the country's two Education Ministers, Mr Antoine Humblet and Mr Herman de Croo, especially in spending on scientific research programmes.—Reuter.

Chinese film 'slanders Soviet aid' claim

From Our Correspondent Moscow, Dec 1

Peking is using films and plays to slander and discredit Soviet aid to China in the decade before the two communist countries broke with each other, according to Tass news agency.

Mr Yakovlev, a political commentator, claims that a widely distributed film, entitled The Second Spring, for his novel L'Amant de poche (the pocket lover) published by Grasset.

The prize is given every year by a jury of literary critics for a novel which must be written by a French journalist.

Deputy editor wins French literary prize

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 1

The Prix Interallié, the last of the prizes to be awarded in the French literary season, was won today by M Volodimir Lesniewski, deputy editor of the French magazine L'Esprit.

The prize is given every year by a jury of literary critics for a novel which must be written by a French journalist.

British union man vanishes on Yugoslav holiday

By Christopher Thomas Labour Staff

A part-time official of Britain's second largest union has disappeared while on a two-week package holiday in Yugoslavia. Searches with helicopters, dogs, and boats have failed to find him.

Mr Stuart MacKenzie, the communist secretary of the South-East Regional Council of the TUC, walked out of his hotel in Budva on September 1 wearing jeans and a thin shirt, and has not been seen since. He is 52. His travellers' cheques and passport were left in the hotel.

He was vice-chairman of the Technical and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW).

The union sent Mr Robert Bannister, secretary of its west London division, to Yugoslavia to conduct inquiries. He said last night: "I stayed for a week in the same hotel. Before going I had consulted with the Foreign Office, and the TUC international department made contact with the trade union organizations in Yugoslavia, which provided me with a car and interpreter."

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Duchess of Windsor in hospital

Paris, Dec 1—The Duchess of Windsor, who has been in a hospital here for the past 10 days with a stomach ulcer, is expected to go home later this week, her secretary said today.

Nepal Premier quits post

Delhi, Dec 1—The King of Nepal today appointed Dr Tulsi Giri, a former political foe of his father, as his Prime Minister after the resignation of Mr Nagendra Prasad Rijal from that post.

The Royal Palace gave no reason for the switch, but Mr Rijal was quoted as having said in a broadcast that he had resigned "to be of help to King Birendra in making new arrangements in the context of constitutional reforms."

Chinese film 'slanders Soviet aid' claim

From Our Correspondent Moscow, Dec 1

Peking is using films and plays to slander and discredit Soviet aid to China in the decade before the two communist countries broke with each other, according to Tass news agency.

Mr Yakovlev, a political commentator, claims that a widely distributed film, entitled The Second Spring, for his novel L'Amant de poche (the pocket lover) published by Grasset.

The prize is given every year by a jury of literary critics for a novel which must be written by a French journalist.

British union man vanishes on Yugoslav holiday

By Christopher Thomas Labour Staff

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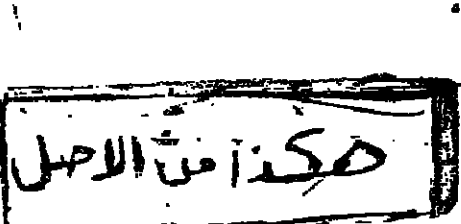
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VERSEAS

Unexpectedly gives Whitlam new hope

Mr Whitlam today moved the date of his campaign over to the economy after the opinion polls showed that his dismissal of the Liberal Government was a failure. He said he was disappointed that the Liberal Government had not won the election, but he was not discouraged. He said he was determined to continue his campaign for a new government.

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Jakarta consults Timor's Indo-Indonesian groups

Mr Adam Malik, Indonesian Foreign Minister, today said that Indonesia was consulting with Indo-Indonesian groups in Timor about the future of the territory. He said that Indonesia was committed to a peaceful solution of the Timor problem and was working closely with the Indo-Indonesian community in Timor.

version rges on six Namibia

Mr Own Correspondent, Dec 1. Africans, three men and women, appeared in the South African court today to face charges of sabotage. They were accused of being involved in the sabotage of a South African train. The court is expected to hear the case in the coming days.

How Australian women fare in a world of cricket, card games and cold beer from the can

Labour certain of feminist vote

From Michael Leppman

Melbourne, Dec 1

The Women's Electoral Lobby will again be interviewing and rating candidates for this month's Australian general election, which is good news for Mr Whitlam's Labour Party. Although the WEL insists that it is strictly neutral, its members admit when pressed that the Labour Government did more for them in the past three years than any government since they won suffrage.

They first rated candidates in the 1972 election for their attitudes to women's issues, including the availability of child care, birth control and the ending of sex discrimination. The results, published shortly before polling day, showed that Labour candidates were far more sympathetic.

Labour duly won, and Mr Whitlam appointed an adviser on women's questions. Among the measures introduced by his Government were federal funding for rape crisis centres, where raped women can report for medical treatment and legal advice before going to the police, and for halfway houses to shelter battered wives.

The WEL's Melbourne headquarters is a crowded, untidy room at the side of a large, middle-class house in Hawthorn. There is a bathroom en suite with a main bedroom. That's what we like to have. Anyway, the house is in a quiet street, and the walls close in on them. It's a long drive from town, so their husbands leave home very early and get home late.

Most Englishmen pick up the Australian way of treating women incredibly quickly when they come here. There's a lack of communication between men and women in Australia.

"We go to segregated parties. You arrive at the house and all the men go into one room to



Mrs Margaret Whitlam: main speaker

out drinking cold beer from cans with the boys.

"It certainly held good when I came here," she replied, "and although things have improved a bit, it still holds good now. There's a lot of suburban neurosis in Australia. Women get married very young and move to their dream house of 18-square brick veneer with four bedrooms and an en suite."

"Brick veneer is what most suburban houses are made of," she explained. "They're basically built of wood but have this brick surface. An en suite bathroom is a bathroom en suite with a main bedroom. That's what we like to have. Anyway, the house is in a quiet street, and the walls close in on them. It's a long drive from town, so their husbands leave home very early and get home late."

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drink and play cards and talk about cricket, while the women go into another and talk about whatever they want to."

Mrs Campbell said that most Australian women had finished hearing children by the time they were 26. They married young mainly because there was precious little life for single people.

Women are not allowed in the bar section of most public houses, and women are not allowed to sit at tables with waiter service. (This was confirmed in a public house later when I saw two young women come in to buy a bottle of wine to take home, but they were pushed through the men in coloured vests and hard hats playing pool. As she left, one of the women turned to the men and said: "Sorry".)

Legislation abolishing can change entrenched attitudes but they can help. The provision of subsidised child care, for instance, could encourage more married women to get into the labour force, and would ensure that this was economically beneficial.

Labour has no serious rival for the votes of militant feminists. This was nicely illustrated at the weekend when Mrs Margaret Whitlam, the imposing wife of the party leader, was the main speaker at a Melbourne rally for International Women's Year. On the same day Mrs Karama Fraser, the Liberal leader's wife, was greeting the differences among women provoked by the Women's Liberation Movement.

"I think," she said, "women are so super that they shouldn't be divided in that way."

But in one important respect this election is a bad one for women. Only 64 women candidates are standing for both houses of Parliament, compared with 80 last time. We will have to find a way of doing something about that.

From Our Correspondent, Melbourne, Dec 1

African delegates to the World Council of Churches assembly in Nairobi have agreed that the Programme of Action (PCA) must be continued, and even strengthened, despite the changes that have occurred since it was agreed on at the last assembly in Uppsala in 1968.

They oppose all moves to water down the PCA, which some other delegates have suggested should be incorporated in a wider programme to overcome racism in all its forms. As it now exists, the PCA is concentrated on the African situation.

With the support of other African delegates, Canon Burgess Carr, the secretary-general of the All-Africa Conference of Churches, who comes from Liberia, has declared that it is out of the question to change the nature or the scope of the PCA.

At the same time, the African delegates have expressed concern about foreign intervention in Angola and have urged the council to intensify its efforts to make contact with the churches there, in an effort to influence the course of events.

Father Jerome McCarthy, an Irish priest teaching in Kenya, had sent an open letter to the World Council of Churches

to do all in its power to ease the conflict in Northern Ireland. He said that the church, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, has contributed in no small way to the present tragic situation, and the council should learn from the Irish experience that violence as a remedy can be more deadly than the disease it seeks to cure.

Father McCarthy asks the assembly to encourage the churches in Ireland to admit their mutual responsibility and to reject the "ecclesiastical lie" that the conflict is (sic) a religious one. He also asks the assembly to urge the churches in Britain to support the campaign for the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland.

A leading Australian scientist, Professor Charles Birch, professor of biology at the University of Sydney, urged the assembly today to recognize the churches' responsibility for "ecological liberation". This cannot be separated from other aspects of liberation, he said.

"If we are to break the poverty barrier for almost two thirds of the earth's people, there has to be a revolution in the relationship of human beings to the world."

Father McCarthy said that the church must choose whether or not they become part of that revolution.

From Our Correspondent, Delhi, Dec 1

The Indian Government has decided to amalgamate the Press Trust of India and the United News of India, the country's two national news agencies. The move was indicated by Mr V. C. Shukla, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

The new news agency will serve all newspapers. The idea behind the merger is to avoid "duplication" and the Government has given assurances that the agency will not be under official control.

Correspondents will be sent abroad and will sell the service in the same way as other foreign agencies do.

It is asserted here that an Indian news agency will provide "authentic" and "objective" copy without the "propaganda" which some foreign news agencies introduce in their stories.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that the Press Council of India will be abolished on the expiry of its term on December 31.

From Our Correspondent, Moscow, Dec 1

The Soviet Communist Party announced today that Mr Brezhnev will give the year-end speech at the February 25 party congress and western diplomats said this was a strong hint that the secretary-general intends to continue in power.

Moscow said the decision was taken by the party's Central Committee in a plenary session.

The radio added that Mr Kosygin, the Prime Minister, would present the main economic report, apparently quashing recent rumours in Moscow and abroad that he too might be ready to step down.

A Western diplomat said: "The fact that Brezhnev has been named to give the major speech at the congress should indicate he will not resign at the congress."

Another diplomat said it would be a surprise if Mr Brezhnev delivered the main policy speech and then stepped down, since this would bring the policies themselves into question.

Mr Brezhnev will be 69 in 18 days' time. —UPI

Church fight against racism in Africa 'must continue'

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Ashe awarded match after hearing before special committee

A positive step and pleasant surprise

World Cup course in good condition

surprise **No change in rule**

Condition

West Ham captain to rest for month

Cup replay now at Aldershot

gates and great enthusiasm in the district."

Today's fixtures

Peabodians 2, Chicago Black Hawks 1.
Kansas City Scouts 1, Atlanta Flames 3.
California Golden Seals 1.

South of Scotland may be lifted by memories of the win in 1966

final decision tomorrow.

MEN: R. Avling (Leander), C. Rallieu (Leander), N. Christie (London).

**be lifted
in 1966**

the downhill, they occupy only two last places in the FIS women's list. Today Marina Eilmer

A chance to shine in front of the

100

with the Olympic team for days, Cordiff wanted £2,000, equivalent to one third of his salary.

from his international approach until yesterday's offer. Richard Tew, general manager of Specialised, said: "We should be delighted to contribute £500 towards making

مكتبة من الأصل

by Prudence Glynn

Fashion



● Left: Edwina Coven in the dress she has had made for City functions. It is of dark blue velvet, trimmed with white lace flounce (the lace came from Kopelovitch in Berwick Street). Cut with extreme simplicity, it makes the prettiest sort of "uniform", cuts out the need for a lot of dresses, and gives a dignified background for insignia. ● Right: The evening dress of the WRAC commissioned ranks. Cream and gold brocade made into a sheath with a gores centre back panel which makes walking easy. Swagged in olive green. Made by the official tailors, Hilliers Couture.

Photographs by Warren Harrison

"There is no excellent beauty that hath not some strangeness in the proportion"

The dreadful aspects of war have been so rightly and so regularly rehearsed that it may sometimes be forgotten that in their search for equal status with men, women have through war, been beneficiaries as well as victims. Being left in charge of the castle while your lord went off to the crusades for a few years must have been a blessing to many strong-minded chaperones, and incidentally bred a whole new attitude to women via the invention of courtly, or platonic love which channelled the natural ardours and temptations of opportunity and proximity between ladies and gentlemen who were not their husbands into exquisite music, verse and painting. It is less easy to decide what the textile business gained from the efforts of the industrious Penelope while her man was away, but the disappearance of a whole section of the male population to fight in 1914 had measurable implications for a generation of suppressed Edwardian daughters. Most obviously, the First World War led to the extension of the franchise to women. Having stood side by side with, or in place of, men, for four terrible and traumatic years women could no longer be denied the right to vote with men.

But on a more prosaic level, consider what the chance, nay the persuasion, upheld by proper patriotism, to escape the claustrophobic domestic setting and get out and do something to emerge from behind the grimy laurels and the shuttered bedrooms of invalid parents and the stifling life of petty duties and all sorts of other women from all sorts of rank, meant to many women. So dramatic indeed was the advance in women's emancipation during the second decade of the twentieth century that one might have thought that by 1939 there would be no repressed females to need liberation. But just as we seem to have an endless capacity for forgetting just how horrific the last light was and how we all swore we would never happen again, old attitudes resurface in periods of peace and there was, in fact, a group of women, smaller, more individualistic, on the whole probably from more "privileged" backgrounds (the less fortunate had never stopped working) who found themselves through the exigencies of wartime life. Edwina Coven, for example, who is the subject of today's page, says that her debt to the WRAC is incalculable. The fifth daughter of a forceful man who when his Istone Airlines was merged to make Imperial Airways became one of the founders of civil aviation in this country and of a mother who was a child prodigy violinist, niece of a man who made a speech in the Court of Common Council and promptly

dropped dead, younger sister of the famous Anna Istone of *Musical Magazine*, Edwina was, without, destined for the altar, not for a job. Her education seems to have consisted mainly of those outdoor games beloved by English boarding schools. But above all Edwina Istone was fat. Fat, stammering, and passionately self-conscious about her appearance.

The war changed that. Presented at one of the last Courts to require white feathers in the hair, within months she had become (by volunteering) a sanitary orderly in the ATS for the male sergeants' mess in Halifax. She ended up on the staff, and was the first British female army officer in the Western Union Defence Organisation (who spoke good French). Not that 14 years' service made her any slimmer. She was a handsome size 22 when she emerged, but she did emerge a much more confident person. "I was educated entirely by the army—and by my husband", she professes. She wrote a children's book, did sporadic broadcasting and journalistic work and then, realising a virtue of what had previously been an agony, she was invited to start and to advise the super-size department at Peter Robinson. She called the clothes super sizes because I wanted to change the whole attitude to big girls. I wanted to make them feel that they were super (that was very much the word of the moment) and not just fat. It was the time of shocking pink, and everything for larger ladies was in navy or rust brown. Well, if you wear shocking pink and you're big, there would be a lot of shocking pink around, but you stand out much less in a group than if you're wearing some totally unfashionable colour. I got Samuel Sherman who'd had a great success with Dolly Rockers to make Super Dolls—everything was geared to make big women feel good; imagine being called good; nobody wants to be outside anything they want to be in. As an adviser to Evans Outsize, she deplores the name as too down to show her pretty neck and shoulders, and trimmed with a handsome lace, which is also used for (practical again) detachable inner sleeves and cuffs. The idea of the style is taken from authentic costume of magistrates (she is also a magistrate) and City dignitaries of the past. This makes dressing night after night as easy for her as it does for a man. As an alternative, she has a cream and gold brocade sheath dress, cut with a gore at the back to hang slimly and yet not hobble her. This style is the official evening dress of the WRAC. One shoulder is swagged with an olive green and gold brocade trimmed drapery which might look rather like a curtain but manages to be rather stylish.

Recognizing the impossibility of affording enough "fashion" dresses to fit her formal life, Deputy Edwina Coven has organised herself one elegant, appropriate gown which corresponds with the regular uniform dress of her male colleagues. She has had made a midnight blue velvet dress, cut down to show her pretty neck and shoulders, and trimmed with a handsome lace, which is also used for (practical again) detachable inner sleeves and cuffs. The idea of the style is taken from authentic costume of magistrates (she is also a magistrate) and City dignitaries of the past. This makes dressing night after night as easy for her as it does for a man. As an alternative, she has a cream and gold brocade sheath dress, cut with a gore at the back to hang slimly and yet not hobble her. This style is the official evening dress of the WRAC. One shoulder is swagged with an olive green and gold brocade trimmed drapery which might look rather like a curtain but manages to be rather stylish.

However, about what Evans says she is in no two minds. Although now a sleek 18, she still shops at Evans for their cut, value and style, which is one of the reasons I wanted to photograph her for readers today, because when I wrote about Evans some interested ladies felt I had cheated by not illustrating my remarks with a picture of a large size outfit. Now I fear they are going to feel that I have cheated by photographing a larger lady.

and also to carry the badges of rank. "It is fashionable these days to talk about minorities—particularly to talk about catering for them" wrote a reader from Dundee recently, going on to point out, quite rightly, that there is more talk than action, particularly where it concerns herself, which is the area of "grossly disproportionate figures". My correspondent measures bust 33in, waist 28in and hips 45in. The most immediate consolation I can offer her is that it will all look much worse in metric. Fortunately she can make her own clothes, but regrets the lack of advice on how to adjust patterns, or the need to buy several different sizes on one body. So, if it interests her, I. And I have dreadful problems with my patterns. Mrs Jackson should, in my opinion, find out whether in the thrifty Dundee area there is not an adult education college or an art school which does pattern cutting courses, and if not, press for one because where two or three are gathered together the local authority will sometimes grant their request.

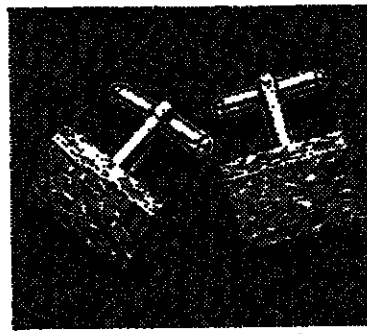
But to come back to minorities, Edwina Coven is, I recognise, not only in a minority but in a very select section within a minority, but please do not resist identification with her fashion problems on this score. It really is to a great part in the mind: if you insist on thinking that you are huge, will you ever be content with any efforts the designers make? But if you think that you are super size, you will, opened with a quote from Bacon as to the charms of not all being alike: I chose with one from Juvenal which is another illustration of the unimportance of size balanced against character: "Expende Hannibalem; quot libras in dace summo venies?" or, "Put Hannibal in the scales: and how many pounds of flesh will you find in that famous general?"

The only frustrating thing about that remark is that I still do not know whether Hannibal was fat or thin, and the picture in my Arthur Mee's *Children's Encyclopaedia* is frankly more specific on the dimensions of the elephant, bottom left.

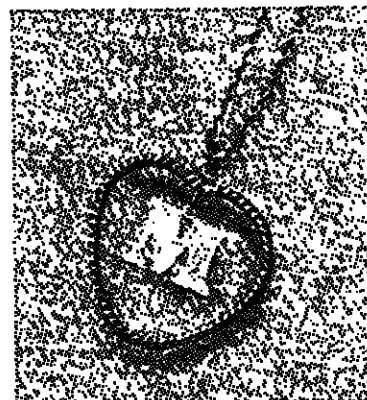
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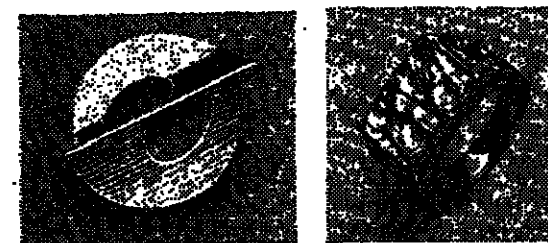
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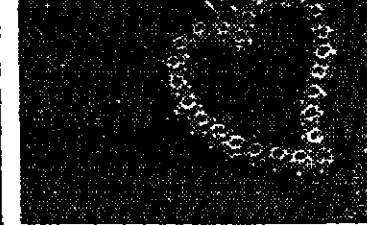
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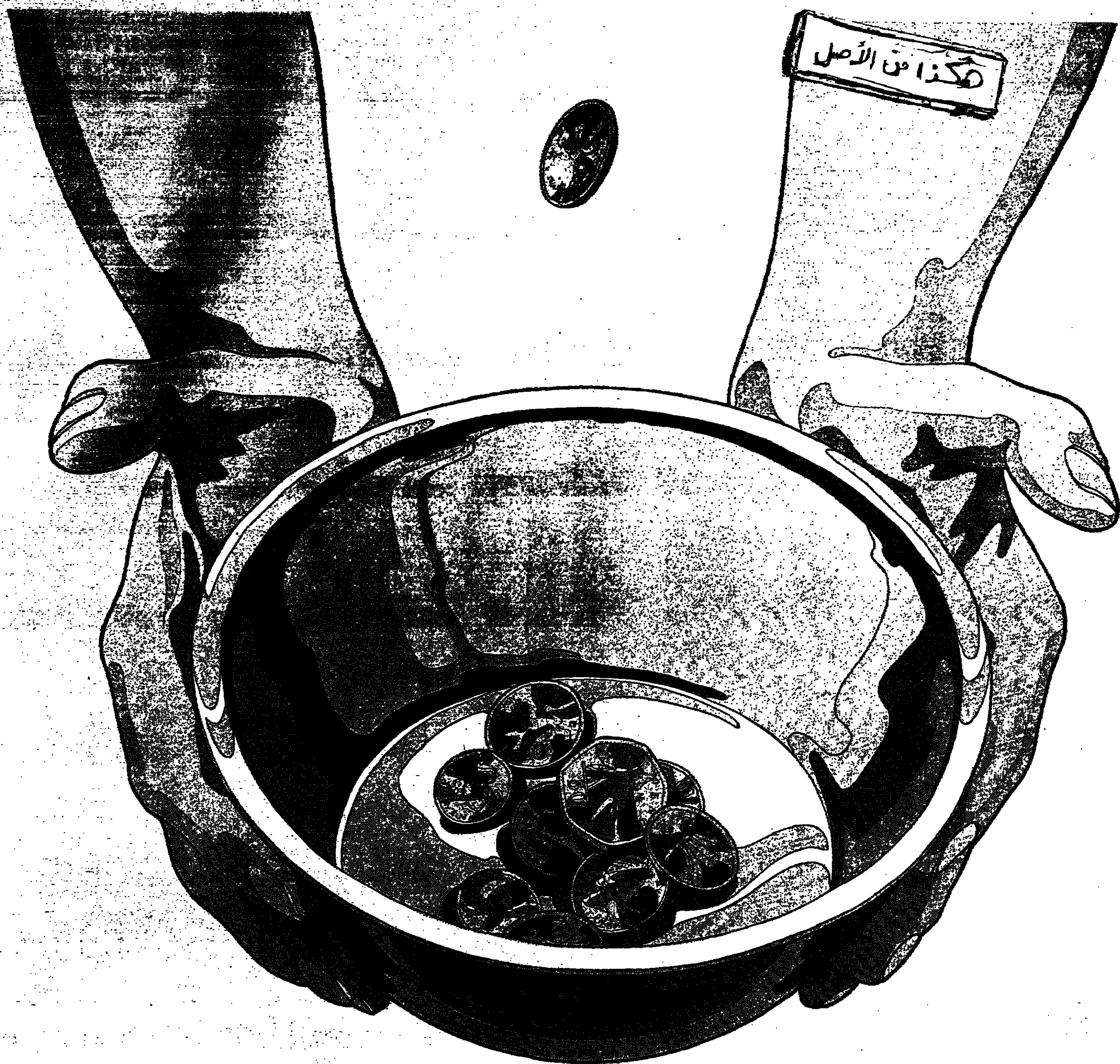
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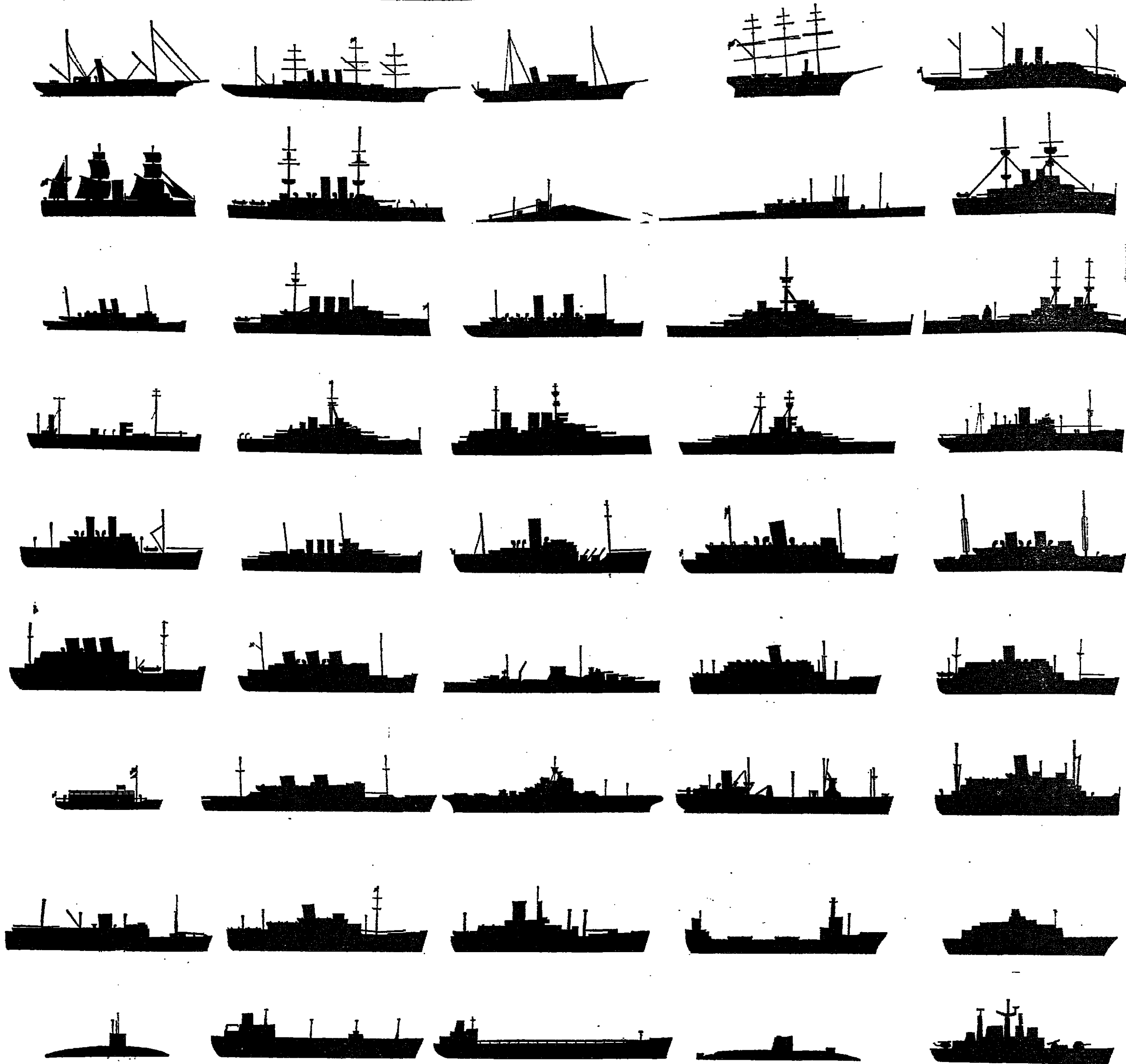
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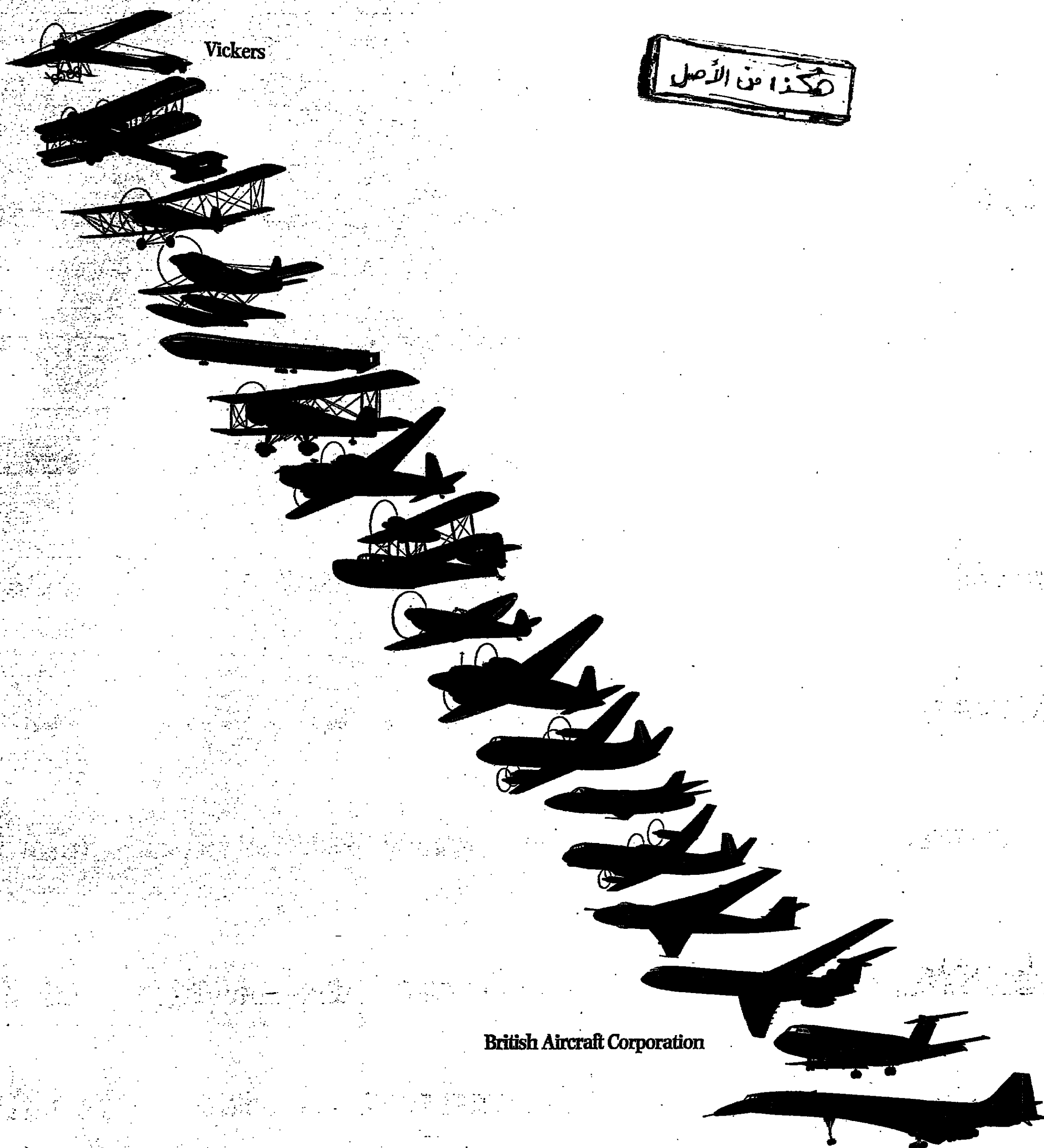
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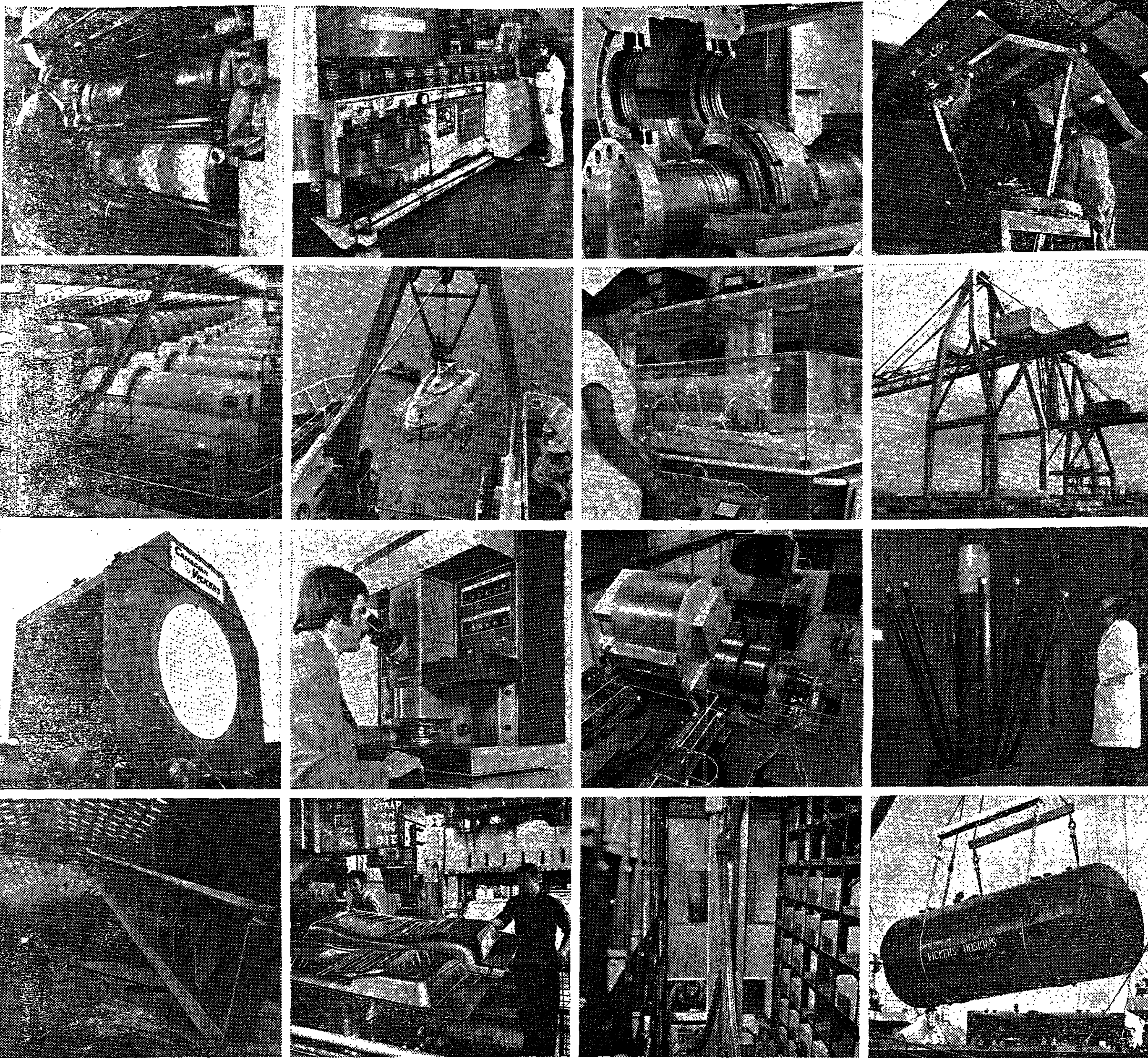
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MR FOOT A FASCIST?

Norman Tebbit, who is the President of the Conservative Party, is planning to raise in the House of Commons a letter to Mr. Michael Foot, written by Mr. Tebbit, in which he is alleged to have said that Mr. Foot is a fascist.

Mr. Foot has been dismissed from the Electricity Supply Union. The dismissal was made by the E.S.U. Council, which is a body of representatives of the members of the union. The dismissal was made on the grounds that Mr. Foot had been guilty of "conduct unbecomingly becoming a member of the union".

Mr. Foot's Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill is again coming before the House of Commons. The Bill is designed to give the Government the power to require employers to provide information about their employees.

Shop agreement is liable at one stroke to lose his job, his right to compensation for dismissal and his right to unemployment benefits. It is also liable to be dismissed from the shop agreement.

Mr. Tebbit has commented "if this is indeed so, it is an example of pure undiluted fascism". When a Conservative Member of Parliament accuses Mr. Foot of being a fascist, it is a typical example of political exaggeration.

What were the central ideological characteristics of fascism? They were that the state should be organized on a corporate and not an individual basis; that the rights of corporations should be preferred to the rights of individuals.

Mr. Foot's Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill is again coming before the House of Commons. The Bill is designed to give the Government the power to require employers to provide information about their employees.

This is therefore a characteristically corporatist transfer of rights or liberties from the individual to the corporate bodies concerned and to the state. The power of the state is indeed involved in three ways, first as the legislator who authorizes closed shop agreements with no right of compensation, then as the employer who enters into closed shop agreements, and thirdly as the authority responsible for refusing unemployment benefits.

Some people would say that this is indeed corporatism but not fascism. Since fascism implies illegality, yet if you control the state and pass laws which are binding on other people, and other laws which remove restraints on yourself, you are left with no advantage from illegality. All corporatism is oppression, because it is inherently anti-individual; in this sense, all corporatism is fascism.

This corporatist system of government—which Mr. Foot fights to establish—is open to objection because it is both bureaucratic and inefficient. In Mr. Foot's version, it is also open to objection because the trade unions are allowed a weight disproportionate to that of any other section of society. Mr. Foot's marriage between the TUC and the CBI is one in which the TUC wears the trousers and the CBI is the battered wife. It is a very chauvinist arrangement.

Yet the objection from liberty is more important than the objection from efficiency or even the objection from equity. It is clear that the whole trend of corporatist government is to reduce the liberty of the individual, not just of the privileged individual but of the ordinary individual. Mr. Foot's doctrine is intolerable because it is a violation of the liberty of the ordinary man in his job. Mr. Tebbit is therefore using fascism in a legitimate descriptive sense when he accuses Mr. Foot of it.

We perhaps need to revise the phrase "social fascism" to describe the modern British development of the corporate state and its bureaucratic attack on personal liberty. The question is not therefore "is Mr. Foot a fascist?" but "does Mr. Foot know he is a fascist?" To that at least we can give a charitable answer.

Replacing listed buildings

From the Editor of The Architectural Review

Sir, Surely it is an ominous day for "modern architecture" when nine of its most distinguished exponents write (November 29) calling on government to make a declaration of faith in it.

The occasion of their letter—the Minister's refusal to allow the Royal College of Art to demolish 197-200 Queens Gate—is confessedly a "difficult" one, and those who come down on one side of it cannot claim to have much of an edge in argument over those who come down on the other. But the signatories use the case to challenge the principle of design, and to suggest that, because our forebears did not scruple to pull buildings down whenever they wanted to build new ones, we should not scruple either.

Since the Royal College of Art was designed, and even since the inquiry as to whether there has been a profound change in public opinion in this matter of architecture. Though the outward sign of this change takes the form of a desire to preserve almost anything, this must only be interpreted as the layman's desperate attempt to do something effective quickly. The real burden of the change is a turning against the kind of "modern architecture" we have been getting since the war. It is a demand that new buildings should at least match the old in their human scale and reference, in their interest, and in their delicacy of treatment. This is not what architects like to call a "failure of the cultural nerve," but a legitimate demand. Even so, it is a demand which modern architectural practice seems to experience great difficulty in meeting.

The signatories are right in seeing the need for a new balance between buildings of different periods; but two questions arise here. The first is whether London (and other cities) have not received about as much new building for the time being as they can cope with, and the second is whether the new buildings should be built in the old buildings' places. After all, more has been built in the last 15 years than in the preceding 100; and, "listing" we must remember has as much to do with preserving identity as with preserving quality. The second concern is the nature of architectural "dialogue": to pursue the metaphor, modern buildings as a class have too little to say but say this so loud that you cannot hear their quieter but more informative neighbours.

At the time of the difficulties of the Royal College of Art, I think Mr. Crossland has rightly interpreted public opinion in this matter; and that, on the broader issue, Ministers would be wise to stand by the principle of "listing" at least until the public has decided the architects into providing the sort of buildings it really wants. Yours faithfully, LANCE WRIGHT, Editor, The Architectural Review, 3 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1. December 1.

Doctors' dispute: pay beds issue

From Mr. Hubert de Castella

Sir, May I, as one who came back from a teaching appointment in the United States to work in the National Health Service, comment on Mrs. Castle's proposals to remove pay-beds from British hospitals? The attitude of American teaching institutions to private practice is determined not at all by political ideology but solely by practical considerations, and may be of interest to those with a similar approach to the NHS, for example the patients.

At the medical school where I worked, members of the faculty were allowed unlimited private practice subject to one restriction—that it was done only in the university hospital, in which we were attached, not in outside clinics. This "geographical whole-time" system was a sensible way of keeping the doctors in the hospital and ensuring their maximum efficiency and availability. It is a common arrangement not only in North America but also, I believe, in Europe.

Observers in these countries must be watching with astonishment Mrs. Castle's attempts to remove pay-beds from the NHS, and to get British consultants out of the hospitals into private clinics. The effect on emergency cover, supervision of junior staff and length of waiting lists is too hard to predict. Need we wonder at the Government's reluctance to submit these proposals to the scrutiny of an independent Royal Commission? Yours faithfully, HUBERT DE CASTELLA, Consultant Surgeon, General Hospital, Burton upon Trent. November 29.

These influential writers are either gullible or lacking in moral courage; gullible if they believe, in the face of all the evidence to the contrary, that their present plans will not inevitably lead to the abolition of choice for the patient in the field of medicine; lacking in moral courage if, in the absence of this belief and unable to offer an effective alternative, they cannot accept that damage to patients by our actions now—and it is stupid to pretend that damage will not result—is a lesser price to pay to preserve not just our professional freedom but freedom of choice for our patients and their offspring than what would be paid if we did nothing.

This dispute, for both junior and senior doctors, is not really about pay or private beds. It goes far deeper: it is in the final outcome about the maintenance of the doctor/patient relationship, equally valuable to both parties. Let me make clear that I am sure, those I include in this letter and those who include the members of ancillary hospital workers' unions.

The fight on which we are embarking must provoke mental anguish for every kind doctor, and this, I believe, is a sure case. I moralize their colleagues. If we can win this fight now we have some hope of picking up and eventually mending some of the inevitably broken pieces. But there will be no hope at all for patients or ourselves if we are squeezed into becoming acquiescent pawns of the DESS.

And this, as you so clearly expressed in your recent admirable leader, is our last chance. Yours faithfully, T. J. FAIRBANK, 10 Cranmer Road, Cambridge. November 30.

From Mr. P. J. Heald

Sir, In your leader today, November 27, on the Medical Contract, you raise yet again the emotive image of "queue-jumping". Can we please be quite clear. These patients, which have, by their foresight and prudence, set money aside for a rainy day, and their use of it in this manner can, in no sense of the term, be described as "jumping the queue".

The Wise Virgins kept oil in their lamps and are entitled to their wisdom. Today, they would also be accused of jumping the queue. It is the freedom and right of every man and woman to save and spend their money as he or she chooses, and it is the duty of Government to make sure that, in general terms, they have the freedom to exercise that right.

Yours, etc. P. J. HEALD, 9 Torr Crescent, Laggary, Rhin, Dumfriesshire. November 27.

The murder of Ross McWhirter

From Mr. Raymond Sears, QC

Sir, The death of Ross McWhirter was for me the death of a friend. I had also advised and acted for him in some of his civil actions against the publishers of the Sunday Express. He believed passionately in the Rule of Law, but equally he accepted that justice was for all persons and that the ignorant and misguided were as entitled to the protection of the law as those more fortunate.

He would be the first person, I am sure, to recognize that the introduction of hanging, even for a limited class of criminals, should not be based on emotion or a natural desire for revenge. He would have been the first person to have deliberated on all the conflicting arguments. Parliament did amend our criminal legislation then the Rule of Law would prevail. If however, the wave of anger which this ruthless murder evoked, drowned the reasoned arguments against hanging, then the change in our law would be arbitrary.

It should not be forgotten that the symbolic power of justice is a double-edged sword. One punishes the wrong-doer, but the other protects the innocent. Let the memory of Ross McWhirter be enshrined in the continuing efforts of all who are involved in the administration of law to ensure that the Rule of Law will prevail. Yours faithfully, RAYMOND SEARS, 56 Weymouth Square, W1. December 1.

From Mr. John Attenborough

Sir, Amid the general revulsion at the slaying of Mr. Ross McWhirter we must not fail to recognize one plain and terrible fact: this is the first time during the current crisis over Ireland that someone in Great Britain has been killed, not by a random act of terror, but because of what he has been saying and doing.

I hope I am not the only self-confessed left-wing extremist who, loyal to Voltaire's dictum of "defending to the death the right of one's opponent to say whatever he wants, now accepts that there is an overwhelming case for the introduction of further draconian measures against terrorists. By so doing we shall surely bring about a police state and a permanent war of attrition between the authorities and their opponents unless we set a date for the withdrawal from Ireland. I realize that this is the kind of fundamental decision that a Truman or a de Gaulle could take, but that it is anathema to the English political tradition of "muddling through". Nevertheless, I beg you will allow me to make out the case.

I note first that we have arrived at the present catastrophic situation after centuries of bloody, oppressive involvement in Ireland. Our record seems, therefore, to disqualify us from the job of creating a prosperous, civilized community; is it not, astonishingly, misguided, arrogant, on a par with the now-failed American enterprise in South-East Asia, to persist with nation-building in these circumstances?

Could the indigenous Irish be any less successful than we are? The stock answer is, of course, a vision of a gigantic bloodbath in the wake of a British withdrawal. Appalling though that risk is, we must soon decide whether a continuation of our present policy, involving the certainty of endless death and destruction, and the eventual erosion of our most cherished and fundamental freedoms, is not more appalling still. Yours sincerely, JOHN ATTENBOROUGH, 3 Brockley Road, West Bridgeford, Nottingham. November 28.

The Backs

From Mr. Peter Bicknell

Sir, Mr. Peter Bicknell (November 29) refers misleadingly to The Backs as an area laid out by Capability Brown. Although a plan by Lancelot Brown for the landscaping of the backs of the colleges was submitted to the University in 1778, it was not accepted. Indeed there was never any possibility that the colleges would cooperate in a comprehensive scheme. St. John's College alone who had consulted Brown in 1772 carried out his plans for "The Valley of the Backs". The Wilderness. The development of the rest of The Backs proceeded as piecemeal landscaping by the various owners of the land. Queens', King's, Clare, Trinity and St. John's each making its own contributions. For this reason it remains impossible to make one's way from end to end of The Backs without emerging at least twice into the bedlam of Queen's Road.

The beauty of Great Ouse Meadows are those of a typical East Anglian scene, but the beauty of The Backs is unique. Until Queen's Road ceases to be a congested trunk road and an extensive car park, this beauty will remain hideously mutilated. My address reveals that I have good reason not to be impartial. Yours faithfully, PETER BICKNELL, Finella East, Queens' Road, Cambridge. November 29.

Oldest ball game

From Mr. D. R. H. Major

Sir, As a hockey player it has always been my belief that men were playing this ball game c 2000 BC. I remember seeing in the Athens Museum of Antiquities the original on replica of Tomb No 16 from Beni Hassan, Egypt, depicting two contestants in an orthodox hockey bully position, with umpire in attendance. They were, of course, also playing hockey in Athens c 490 BC. Yours truly, DAVID MAJOR, Pinley Ridding, Claverton, Warwick. November 27.

DEMOCRATIC PORTUGAL AFTER ALL?

th a little more luck and skill tugal may yet be able to prove a revolution giving birth to a democracy or something like that. The government of eral de Salazar has now handed, and the military ership is being purged of the extreme left-wingers. Although there could still be a th to the left or the right, or alysing disagreements among se now in power, the situation is more hopeful than for e time.

evolutionary movements are lom very good at setting up 'stitutional power structures replace what they have de- eved. Their motives and their nization have been geared to er tasks, and they usually con- of disparate elements united y in their opposition to the vailing order. Even when y start with the best of democ- ic intentions they tend either all apart or to be taken over- rrorists and tyrants. he Portuguese revolutionary- ement was as deeply divided any, but its democratic- els seem now to be coming on top. One reason for this- imply that other ideas have rmed and have failed. When- armed forces were groping a new order during their y days in power a number of erent options seemed to be- e. The first was to seek democ- ic legitimacy by announcing- ions, but these suddenly ned too risky and the attempt- e, with partial success,

to nullify the results before they took place. The soldier's traditional dislike of political parties had combined with rather confused hopes for a new type of revolutionary military government. The still left several other concepts jostling for favour. One was a military regime relying heavily on the discipline and organization of the Communist Party, which proved gratifyingly eager to serve in that capacity in order to wield indirectly the power it was unable to win through the ballot box or by direct seizure of power. Another was based on ideas derived from the "new left" and from the African liberation movements which envisaged political power being generated primarily from below by continuous political activity in every farm, factory and institution, preferably guided by the army.

The old left, represented by the curiously old-fashioned Communist Party, has failed so far primarily, because it is an alien transplant from eastern Europe and would, as in that area, require the direct support of the Red Army to remain in power. Had it taken its cue from the more independent Italian or Spanish communists it might have found a more acceptable place alongside democratic parties. As it was, it made its Stalinist attitudes abundantly clear, and alienated many people by its transparently tactical manoeuvres, and by seeking power disproportionate to its popular support. In the end it

found itself fomenting opposition to a government of which it was itself a member, a position of such immoral absurdity that it should by now be deeply discredited.

As for the new left, it has suffered from a fatal flaw: relations with the Communist Party but also from the popular opposition which its anarchic activities have provoked, especially among farmers. Its activists, egged on from above, have done something to arouse enthusiasm and stimulate political awareness among ordinary people but they have not been able to translate this into a coherent programme of orderly, law-abiding reform. The methods and attitudes of the revolutionaries are by their nature disruptive and are therefore extremely difficult to translate into creative support for an existing order.

Thus the Soviet and the "African" solutions have both failed. The political wheel has turned and brought a new chance for the democratic parties to establish a system appropriate to Portugal's geographical position and cultural heritage. The main problem now will be for an understanding nervous military leadership to find the courage to give these parties the freedom and support they need. Unfortunately the political leaders need to get the economy out of trouble are not easily compatible with relaxed democratic government. There are still strong forces on the left and the right that would not pass by an opportunity to make another bid for power.

From Mr. R. N. R. Peers

Sir, The distinguished Camden Town group who seem to see 197-200 Queens Gate replaced may be right to consider the design proposed for the site to be superior to that of the existing building. Equally the Secretary of State for the Environment has reason to reflect a lack of confidence in our current cultural standards.

Our predecessors, whether Victorian, Georgian or Medieval, left richness and diversity in our towns. We, on the other hand, have far too often mutilated or destroyed on a massive scale the buildings which made the historic town plans.

Present day developers and architects have had plenty of opportunities to show their skill in development of new as well as old sites, whether urban or rural. With notable exceptions the results have been woefully third rate and permanent.

Until planning and professional controls, discipline and skill are strong enough to improve this average standard good architects and planners should not grumble if they are frustrated. The answer lies with them. Yours sincerely, ROGER PEERS, Curator and Secretary, Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester. November 29.

From Mr. B. D. Thompson

Sir,—If the Royal College of Art is trying to knock down buildings in London listed as of importance architectural interest in this Architectural Heritage Year, what hope is there? Yours faithfully, B. D. THOMPSON, 13 Borough Street, N1. November 24.

Bertrand Russell

From Senior José Cutileiro

Sir, Michael Burns's letter (The Times, November 26), deploring the emphasis on Lord Russell's liberal activities contained in reviews of Lord Russell Clark's biography of Bertrand Russell and excerpts of it that have appeared in the press, is obviously addressed to a British audience. By referring to the "chaste or monogamous long periods of Lord Russell's life Mr. Burns wants to prove that he was much closer to the accepted values of his society than the excerpts and reviews might suggest.

Values very however and in many a Mediterranean society Mr. Burns's evidence would seriously have undermined the prestige that I am sure would have accrued to Lord Russell's memory had the excerpts and reviews been published there. Morals are conventional and sexual morals perhaps more conventional than others. Lord Russell devoted some time and effort to try to explain this and it seems to me that to pass moral judgments of any kind on his amorous behaviour is to misunderstand him. Yours faithfully, JOSE CUTILEIRO, 67 Belsize Park Gardens, NW3. November 28.

Misspelled columns

From Mr. Nigel Dempster

I am flattered that the Editor of The Times has recruited the jocular Ms. Arianna Stassinopoulos in his curious campaign to joss misspelled columns on mass circulation newspapers to the quality boring level of his own, the slavish chronicler of PR tricks and prime practitioner of liminal journalism.

in a featured article (The Times, page 18, November 28) Ms. Stassinopoulos chooses to review the book of my columns in the Daily Mail with three conveniently minor misspelled words. The approximately 10 stories I write every year, naturally she cares not—dresses—mention the scandal of the order ceremony crockery for the House of Commons; that I revealed that much did he like the Environment; that Minister Anthony Cross had paid nearly £45,000 for a second chunk of it, or that I asked it was my column, and that I used the real facts behind the missal of John Boyden from the O. As Stassinopoulos declares an arrest, claiming that she isationally allotted a walk-on part.

Indeed, I have written about her once—when I gallantly came to her rescue in April after another newspaper had embarrassingly alleged that she was romantically involved with Mr. Bernard Levin. And this is the thanks I get? Yours faithfully, NIGEL DEMPSTER, Diary Editor, Daily Mail, Carmelite House, E.C.4.

Ratepayers' movement

From the Chief Executive of the Borough of Rushmoor

Sir, It certainly makes a change for a letter to be published which is not an local government (Professor Tony Eddison, November 27). Of course the amount of rates paid has increased over the years, but so has the cost of labour and materials. It is not idle for "ratepayers' associations" and newspapers to keep repeating these well-known facts. Why not keep repeating the less well known facts that as a percentage of personal disposable income the proportion now paid in rates is less than it was pre-war and has remained fairly constant over the last six years.

The following table taken from the Annual Abstract of Statistics Report of Committee of Inquiry into the impact of rates on house-holders, drawn up by Professor Foster of the London School of Economics is interesting.

Year	Rate (1974/5)	Rate (1973/4)	Rate (1972/3)	Rate (1971/2)	Rate (1970/1)
1938/9	3.847	109	2.83		
1967/7	23.901	611	2.35		
1968/8	26.55	655	2.47		
1970/1	31.046	747	2.41		
1972/3	39.531	996	2.52		
1973/4	45.603	1,109	2.43		
1974/5	53.044	1,323	2.49		

In view of the ever increasing burdens undertaken by local authorities by reason of Central Government policy, I suggest the above figures show that local government is not the inefficient and overstaffed body ratepayers suggest. If ratepayers' associations are to be taken seriously on the question of the amount of rates, their members are paying, they will have to do better than just keep saying "my rates have gone up 162 per cent". Yours faithfully, A. R. O'DOWD-BOOTHE, Chief Executive, Borough of Rushmoor, Town Hall, Farnborough, Hampshire.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

كندا من الأصل

The stately
home will
have to go.

Don Zollo
World's most exquisite
cream sherry.

Mr Shore to tell Neddy of plan to cut industry's foreign buying

Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, will tomorrow announce a programme for reducing the country's purchases of foreign goods and equipment and put more British-made products on the shelves of shops.

Mr Shore, who has already urged consumers to search for the "British" label before buying goods, is submitting a paper to the sub-committee of the National Economic Development Council.

The committee has two other members, dealing with the country's export strategy and the opportunities for raising the value of the pound.

It is understood that Mr Shore's paper on import substitution envisages a "Buy British" drive throughout the country, masterminded by the Government, to encourage the purchase of British-made goods by state industries, and other bodies.

Mr Shore calls for a "systematic" use of all purchasing from where substitution would be beneficial to the balance of payments, employment, and other factors.

In a review, he will argue, the balance of purchasing from overseas can be improved. Relationships between purchasers and suppliers should be examined to find out home market items are not being bought.

The Department of Trade

delity Life to seek aid from Protection Board

Margaret Stone, delity Life Assurance, is to apply for financial aid to the Policyholders' Protection Board.

It will be the first case to be dealt with by the board, set up last year.

The petition to wind up delity Life was adjourned yesterday in the High Court for Justice Oliver, who put the case to the Department of Trade.

The company's petition to the court was to allow time for the company to inject fresh funds into delity Life.

However, this intended rescue was aborted because of the company's financial position in the United States.

delity Life told the court yesterday that the company's only concern was its policyholders should receive 100 per cent of their money.

Eagle Star to raise £26m by rights issue

By Our Insurance Correspondent

Eagle Star Insurance is having a rights issue to raise just under £26m. This takes the total amount raised through the stock market by composite insurance groups this year to about £180m.

The company's one-for-four issue at 100p a share is one of the smallest composite rights issues so far in money terms, though relatively large in relation to premium income.

The other composite insurance groups to have raised money in 1975 are Royal (E64m), Sun Alliance (£57.5m), Guardian Royal Exchange (£52.7m) and Phoenix (£20m).

Commercial Union began the latest series of insurance company money-raising operations with a £62m rights issue last year. Additionally, two leading life assurance groups, the Prudential and Legal & General, have raised £70m through the Stock Exchange this year, taking the grand total to £322m.

Eagle Star now needs another injection of shareholders' cash to maintain its traditionally "higher than average" capital base.

Financial Editor, page 17

Bermuda group drops Furness share deal

By Margaret Walters

European Shipholdings has withdrawn from an arrangement with the merchant bank Hambros under which it was to purchase the latter's 8 per cent stake in Furness Withy.

This emerged yesterday when the group announced a planned "disposal" of a large chunk of its 28.8 per cent holding in one of two letters to the Furness Withy board.

The letter stated that some 2.19 million shares, worth £4.2m at current stock market values, would be disposed of to "third parties who are not associated with European Shipholdings", thereby reducing the company's holdings to 26.6 per cent.

It is understood, however, that European Shipholdings has never actually completed the purchase of these shares from Hambros. It was due to do so on December 9.

European Shipholdings, a privately-owned group controlled from Bermuda, surprised the Furness Withy board in early September by announcing itself as the owner of 28.8 per cent of the group's shares.

With a seemingly substantial shareholding it asked for board representation, which was refused and sought discussions with the shipping group "to determine how best to develop their mutual trading interests".

Following requests from Furness Withy, the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection last week referred the whole matter to the Monopolies Commission. That decision now seems likely to be reconsidered.

Mr Peter Twiss, the managing director of European Shipholdings, stated yesterday that "the effect of this disposal is to facilitate the situation in the event that the Mergers and Monopolies Commission rules unfavourably on our holding of shares in Furness Withy. Although our shareholding in Furness Withy is now below the level normally triggering a reference to the Mergers and Monopolies Commission, we have advised the Office of Fair Trading that we believe the Commission's enquiry should nevertheless proceed."

He added that European Shipholdings still intended to seek board representation and would still be interested in reconstituting its previous holding should the Commission's ruling be favourable.

Rescue hopes for Jessel grow fainter

By Our Financial Staff

Jessel Securities, the industrial holding and financial group built up by Mr Oliver Jessel, is virtually certain to go into voluntary liquidation early in the New Year unless the Official Receiver, who is acting as provisional liquidator for Jessel's former life insurance offshoot London Indemnity & General, has a change of heart.

In the High Court yesterday his representative opposed a scheme of arrangement being prepared by Hambros on the grounds that such a proposal, involving the compromise of the £66m claim the insurance group has against its former parent was tantamount to a capital reduction and therefore required the approval of its 80,000 policyholders.

Although the Official Receiver must shortly seek approval from the policyholders for the insurance group's own scheme, it is understood that he is opposed to delaying the liquidation of Jessel Securities because he feels it will make only a marginal difference to the outcome whether the group continues as an entity or not.

Phoenix Assurance, trustees of Jessel's £10m loan stock, are still in favour of a reconstruction. But such a scheme would need 75 per cent of creditors to support it and London Indemnity & General accounts for well over a quarter of the creditors.

Although lawyers are still debating the points raised by the Official Receiver against his giving support for the scheme, it seems likely that there will be a creditors' meeting arranged shortly before January 19 when the group must next appear in the High Court.

A liquidation is not expected to have any impact on Jessel's major quoted associates, Eastern Produce and Maple Macquarries, both of which have developed separate management and financing facilities.

£17m European loan for BSC

The British Steel Corporation has raised its fourth loan from the European Investment Bank, the European Community's long-term finance institution. The loan is for £17.5m and will be used for the installation of three new coating lines at the BSC's complex at Scunthorpe, north Wales. Work being carried out at Scunthorpe is estimated to cost some £56m.

Completion of this loan, which is for 10 years at a rate of 9½ per cent, will bring the total raised by the BSC from the EIB during the past two years to almost £57m.

Kuwait wins 100pc control 'for £32m'

By Roger Vielvoye

Energy Correspondent

Kuwait has become the first of the Arab oil producing nations in the Gulf to gain 100 per cent control of its oil operations. British Petroleum and Gulf Oil yesterday signed an agreement with the Kuwait government under which they relinquish their remaining 40 per cent stake in the Kuwait Oil Co.

No details of the compensation paid to the two companies were available last night, but it is thought to be in the region of £32m, well below the figure asked for during the eight months of intermittent negotiations on the handover.

In a statement last night, British Petroleum said the agreement, which is still subject to ratification by the Kuwait National Assembly, was retroactive to March 5 of this year.

The compensation figure took into account all outstanding issues between the two sides, including the possibility of retroactive payments by the companies.

A final settlement in Kuwait will raise once again the possibility of other oil producing Arabians American Oil Co. forcing a 100 per cent ownership on the handover.

Speculation that Saudi Arabia was close to reaching an agreement with the American-owned Arabian American Oil Co. for a 100 per cent ownership grew last night as Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, flew into London for talks with representatives of the four American oil company partners.

The settlement in Kuwait follows threats by the Kuwait government to cut-off supplies to BP and Gulf if agreement could not be reached by the end of the year.

Neither BP nor Gulf revealed the size of the discount on oil prices they will receive for continuing to keep the industry in Kuwait running, but according to a statement from the Middle East News Agency in Egypt, they will receive a 15 cent discount on top of the 20 cent profit margin.

Oil company sources said this discount was not particularly generous since Kuwait oil was considered overpriced in the market, even allowing for a recent 10 cents a barrel reduction in the quality premium.

Chrysler statement likely on Thursday

By Our Industrial Editor

It is expected that a limited rescue of Chrysler UK is still under very active government consideration were emerging from Whitehall last night.

The provision of temporary state financial support in return for some form of continued assistance by the Chrysler Corporation of America, may yet be put before a Cabinet meeting on Thursday, when a Commons statement may be made after some weeks of speculation.

Yesterday, Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, said: "The feasibility of a number of options is being considered and a report will be made to the House as soon as it is possible to do so."

Mr Varley would not confirm or deny suggestions that up to £35m might be made available to Chrysler. He thought that his statement last week would have been the company's decision.

There were some suggestions, like 800 exclusive Chrysler dealers in Britain and they were just as worried as those who work in the factories. The financial situation of Chrysler UK was under "continuous discussion" between the Government and the corporation.

No one in Whitehall last night was able to say what options are now under continuous discussion. Mr John Riccardo, chairman of the American

parent corporation, put what are described as alternative options to the Government before returning to Detroit last week after his fourth round of consultations with ministers.

This seems to indicate that the Corporation's threatened withdrawal of support for its British car manufacturing operations is still open to negotiation even at this late stage.

Mr Riccardo wants the Government to stimulate domestic demand as well as finding new resources to deal with financial problems. And he wants more reassurance about labour relations in the future.

For its part, the Government has an immediate objective of safeguarding £100m worth of exports next year and averting any further rise of imported car sales if Chrysler's dealers are to switch franchises through lack of sales.

The provision of some short-term assistance and some selective economic measures may provide a compromise when the divided Cabinet hears the outcome of negotiations.

Mr Varley, however, promised "a very full statement" in due course and Thursday looks a likely day, after Mr Wilson has returned from the European summit in Rome and after tomorrow's Neddy council meeting.

Citroën deal set to boost UK components

By Clifford Webb

British raw material and motor component companies are negotiating substantial contracts to supply Citroën as a result of a new approach to British purchases by the French car group. After years of unsuccessful negotiations with IRL, the giant American corporation which already has a big stake in the British component industry.

Last night, Mr David Sankey, managing director of the new company, said: "British suppliers have never really persisted because of initial problems with the French. They do not feel justified in having someone at the French factories every week, preferring to spend more

time with their existing British customers."

The first approach came from Mr Georges Falconnet, purchasing director of Citroën. We have been working together for about six months now. Substantial contracts for raw materials such as steel, aluminium and plastics are already in the final stages of negotiation. In addition, British component firms are quoted for such things as radiator grilles, interior trim panels, bonded rubber parts, engine components and so on.

Business Diary, page 17

Talks restart on Innocenti future

Milan, Dec 1.—More talks have been started by the Italian Government to seek an "Italian solution" to Leyland-Innocenti's future after strong opposition by unions and Italian car and motorcycle manufacturers to the possibility of a takeover by Honda of Japan.

Union leaders in Milan said hopes for an Italian takeover of the company, put into liquidation by the British parent company last week, still rested on possible moves by Fiat and Alfa Romeo, the big car makers, and Mr Alejandro de Tomaso, the Argentine-born motorcycle manufacturer.—AP-Dow Jones.

3 more big US banks make prime rate cuts

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Dec 1

First National Bank of Chicago, the Mellon National Bank and the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company reduced their prime rate lending levels to 7½ per cent from 7½ per cent today.

These banks, followed by many smaller institutions, have now practically ensured that 7½ per cent becomes the nationwide prime rate level, especially as several other leading banks moved to this rate late last week.

First National City Bank of New York remains the sole bank with a 7 per cent prime rate, and it is likely to hold this level—barring any sharp change in money market rates in the next few days—for the time being.

But an increasing number of bankers and economists now believe that interest rates may start moving higher early next year under the pressures of increased government and private sector borrowing.

More experts are coming to take a highly similar view about the general United States economic outlook.

This view was expressed today in a special report by the Conference Board of New York. The report, based on the analyses of 11 leading economists, concludes that economic recovery will be "careful and deliberate" in 1976.

The Conference Board predicts nominal gross national product rising by 12 per cent to \$1,651,500m (about £819,200m) with real growth at 5.8 per cent.

But an increasing number of bankers and economists now believe that interest rates may start moving higher early next year under the pressures of increased government and private sector borrowing.

Pound's overall value down but up against dollar

By Mervyn Westlake

Sterling fared rather better on the foreign exchanges yesterday after its sharp pre-weekend slide. As the initial enthusiastic response to the rescue of New York City began to fade the dollar gave ground, and this helped to bolster the pound. It rose by 5 points against the dollar to close at \$2.0210.

However, the pound's floating devaluation rate registered its worst ever closing level. This rate, which measures the fall in the pound against 10 other currencies since the summer of 1972, worsened to 30.2 per cent at the close on Friday.

In Tokyo, the Bank of Japan abandoned its attempt to stop the yen from falling against the dollar. The authorities stopped supporting the yen at 303.00 to the dollar, and adopted a new support level of 305.00.

This is the lowest exchange rate for the yen since it was allowed to float in February 1973.

It is estimated that the Japanese central bank has spent \$680m since the Rambouillet economic summit and \$800m during November.

A sharp decline in the country's official reserves was cited as the main reason for the decision to abandon the 303.00 yen level.

TESCO

turnover up by £44 million to
£265,000,000
Net profit before tax up to
£9,381,000

Chairman of Tesco Stores (Holdings) Limited, Mr. Leslie Porter, is on the unaudited results of the Group for the 24 weeks ended August 1975.

	24 weeks to the 24th August 75	24 weeks to the 24th August 74	% change
Turnover including VAT	264,626	220,393	+20.07%
Net Profit Before Tax	9,381	8,362	+12.18%
Net Profit After Tax	7,133	5,972	
Dividend per share	1.43p	1.29p	

so profits lift in first half

profits rose 12.18 per cent during the 24 weeks to 24th August, 1975. £8,362,000 to £9,381,000, despite substantial increases in costs. The result of awar made during last year, increased wages have been or factor. In our areas strenuous efforts continue to be made to at the increasing costs of operating the Group.

As margins have declined as a result of the Company's policy of ng prices down to maximise turnover and also as a result of the nment's price control legislation.

Development

development programme is on schedule. By February 1976 we are increased our sales area both from new store openings and sion of existing stores by almost 600,000 sq. ft. Only five of these were opened by 5th August, 1975, the remainder being scheduled in during the second half of the year including 11 from at 72,400 sq. ft.

ent Trading and Future Development

rent turnover trends are encouraging and all indications point to a story period of trading through to Christmas. Our promotional, especially in Home 'n' Wear, have proved highly successful and a greatly encouraged by the results achieved.

nds indicate that the profitability for the second half of the year a materially higher than in the period under review.

Board have declared an interim dividend of 0.5750p per share (8p) which will be paid to shareholders on the register of members close of business on 6th January, 1976 and will be posted on arch, 1976.

ESCO STORES (HOLDINGS) LIMITED
20 House, P.O. Box 18, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Herts, EN8 9SL

'Bleak future' seen for property

By Ronald Pullen

The Government's land policy is not the immediate cause of the commercial property market's present plight but is an important additional source of uncertainty for the industry and investors, according to a report yesterday by the Advisory Group on Commercial Property Development.

The report sees a bleak future for the commercial property market since current activity is simply a spillover from projects started before the collapse in property in the autumn of 1973. This was a period of diminishing, to be superseded by a virtual hiatus of construction beginning within two or three years. Much of the blame for

this state of affairs is laid on the adverse economic situation. Four factors are singled out: the doubling of building costs between 1973 and the end of 1974, the high cost of short and long term finance, the failure of rental income to keep pace with soaring building costs, and the relative weakness of the commercial property market.

In the absence of a fall in the rate of inflation and interest rates, development schemes will no longer be feasible, leading to a decline in new space.

In addition, the report recognises that the commercial property market has been deterred from embarking on new schemes because of development gains tax. Tax on first

lettings has created such uncertainty on the future liability and local authority delays on planning applications and compulsory purchase orders have caused an escalation of costs.

The report emphasizes the role of the private developer in commercial property schemes for many years to come, and the importance of financial institutions (insurance companies and pension funds) as providers of funds for new projects.

But it recognizes that under the Community Land Act local authorities will have a much bigger part to play in initiating commercial development schemes.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
British Leyland 2p to 30p	Ass Port Cement 3p to 17p
Bechtel Grp 5p to 35p	Brit Am Tob 2p to 31p
Boots 3p to 13p	Brit Cel 2p to 31p
BP 4p to 52p	Brit Cel 2p to 31p
Berry Wiggins 8p to 22p	Brit Cel 2p to 31p
EMI 8p to 22p	Brit Cel 2p to 31p
Hawker Sid 8p to 31p	Brit Cel 2p to 31p
	Brit Cel 2p to 31p

THE POUND

Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$ 1.67	1.61
Belgium Fr 22.75	22.75
Belgium Fr 64.00	64.00
Canada \$ 2.09	2.04
Denmark Kr 12.65	12.25
Finland Mk 8.10	7.85
France Fr 9.20	8.90
Germany DM 5.45	5.25
Greece Dr 81.00	76.00
Hong Kong \$ 10.40	10.00
Italy L 155.00	150.00
Japan Yn 645.00	620.00
Netherlands G 5.55	5.35
Norway Kr 11.45	11.10
Portugal Esc 75.00	65.00
S Africa R 1.80	1.67
Spain Pes 124.80	118.50
Sweden Kr 9.15	8.85
Switzerland Fr 5.55	5.35
US \$ 2.06	2.01
Yugoslavia Dnr 42.50	39.00

Sterling gained 5 points to \$2.0210. The "effective devaluation" rate was 30.2 per cent.

Gold lost 75 cents an ounce to close at \$137.75.

S&P 500 was 17043 on Monday, while S&P 2 was 580570.

Equities closed firmly after recovering early falls.

Gold-edged securities were steadier.

Commodities: Reuters index was at 1143.5 (previous 1143.2).

Reports, pages 18 and 19

On other pages

Business appointments	16	Share prices	20
Appointments vacant	9, 21	Wall Street	19
Financial Editor	17	Bank Base Rates Table	19
Letters	16	Company Meeting Reports:	15
Diary	17	Lyndale Engineering	17
Financial news	18, 19	Paterson, Zochonis	18
Market report	18, 19		

Interim Statements:	15
Compagnie de Paris des	15
Pays Baj	15
Tesco Stores (Holdings)	15
Prospectuses:	15
13½ per cent Treasury Loan	15
1975	15
Law Debenture Group	17

THE CLAN MCCANNY

GRANDAD MCCANNY IS DRINKING WITH MRS BREW AT THE GOLF CLUB WHILE HIS GRANDSON'S PLAY IN THE BACKGROUND, AN AGITATED GRANNY MCCANNY APPROACHES!

"I'VE BEEN TALKING TO MRS. BREW ABOUT THE MCCANNY HAGS EMPIRE..."

"AS SOON AS YOU'VE GONE SO, I'LL BE!"

"POUF!"

"HE SAYS THAT..."

"HE SAYS CAPITAL TRADING WILL SEE US TO THAT!"

CALM YOURSELF! WOMAN MRS BREW! THE CLAN MCCANNY HAS PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH SCOTTISH PROVIDENT...

"£2000 A YEAR TO ONE OF THEIR SPECIAL POLICIES WILL MAKE SURE OF A HEFTY TAX FREE SUM TO TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM..."

...MIND YOU, MRS BREW, I THINK I'D BETTER HANG ON FOR A FEW YEARS YET!

Ask your broker or insurance adviser about Scottish Provident or fill in this coupon.

Mr. [Name] [Address] [City/Town] [Postcode]

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT

You call it Canny, we call it Provident.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The future role of property developers



Mr. Samuel Osborn, chairman of Samuel Osborn & Co. Ltd.

While the property industry as a whole is expected to have a good year, the future role of property developers is being questioned. The industry is being asked to prove its worth to the community, particularly in the context of the new planning laws and the need for more housing.

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This is not to deny a creditable performance, but the company will be hard pressed to maintain profits over the coming year. However, the chief interest in Osborn now centres on the 22.5 cent stake held by rivals Johnson Firth Brown, which is looking for strong overseas penetration.

At 52p, down 2p on the day, Osborn's shares are selling on a multiple of 4.2 and yielding 9.4 per cent. With the worst of the recession still to come, Osborn, the shares are a hold on hopes of a bid.

Capitalisation £4.89m
Sales £28.7m (£25.98m)
Pre-tax profit £2.92m (£2.8m)
Earnings per share 12.4p (11.5p)
Dividend gross 4.93p (3.75p)

Sim Darby
Hastening conversion

Sim Darby's shares are yielding 3.3 per cent in Singapore on a price of M\$3.19, so by putting up a scheme to convert its outstanding US\$29.4m 54 per cent Euro-convertible into equity the company can offer an immediate increase of 11 per cent in earnings per share. Assets, too, would go up by 7 per cent a share.

At the same time, the proposed deal would involve further important measures of de-gearing. Last year Sim Darby reduced its net borrowings from £21 to £31 per cent of shareholdings' funds, but if the conversion goes through shareholdings' funds, based on the year just finished, would rise by a fifth to M\$427m, borrowings would fall by some 44 per cent to M\$87m and the gearing ratio would thus come down to around 20 per cent. This represents a fairly impressive strengthening of the balance sheet over the past two years.

As for the bondholders, they at present have the right to convert into shares at the rate of 275 shares per £1,000 bond. The new scheme offers 675 shares per bond, which, at the present market price for the shares, justifies a price for the bonds of 85. Until yesterday the bonds were trading at around 55, so bondholders are being offered an increase of 54 per cent in capital value. The price to be paid for this is a more than halving of income, but there cannot have been too many holders of bonds who were primarily interested in the income.

ANZ Banking
Happy tale from Australia

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group has come through 1974-5 without divulging any of the exceptional items that have become such a common feature of British clearing bank figures, and despite no shortage of economic problems in the markets where it operates.

Admittedly the 33 per cent earnings increase to £16.9m drops to 21 per cent when stripped of its exchange rate bonus and expressed in Australian dollars, but the bank has had to cope with downturns in London and New Zealand, so it can be seen how healthy the performance in Australia has been.

In particular, finance company profits were up by more than 80 per cent to £12.9m, although the Trading Bank too showed a "substantial increase" in Australia. For the moment, however, the shares at 420p, yielding 3.6 per cent, are bound to be subject primarily to election considerations.

Final 1974-5 (1973-4)
Capitalisation £16.9m
After-tax profits (£16.9m)
Earnings per share 45.9p (36.5p)
Dividend gross 14.9p (13.6p)

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The commission are not very hopeful. The Department of Employment held the purse strings and they retained their own regional controllers and offices when their employment, training, health and safety, and advisory and counselling activities were moved out to autonomous agencies. Since the agencies each have their own country-wide network, it is arguable that to create yet another would be excessive.

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But the department still has many administrative duties. It is responsible for the offices which pay out unemployment benefit. It looks after the wages inspectorate. It has its own power intelligence section and plays its part in regional economic planning with representatives of other departments. It supervises the redundancy payments scheme and was recently responsible for the temporary employment subsidy

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It is also looked to for guidance on a range of manpower and industrial questions, some involving policy decisions and some confidential information, for which the Secretary of State, it is contended, is the best person to give advice in the region of 35,263 in January last year. The drop would have been greater if it had not been for an increase of 5,500 in the number on benefit work—now 18,600. No doubt an inevitable result of the increase in unemployment. Apart from that there are only about 4,500 Department of Employment employees.

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How much authority for the manpower services?

Eric Wigham

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This new vacancy calls for candidates aged 23-26 who have acquired part 1 or 2 of an accounting qualification and who preferably have had a years' accounting experience in a banking environment. As a member of a young team he or she will report to the Chief Accountant for day-to-day accounting duties, monthly accounts and profits, management information and statistical returns. Essential qualities are tact, a high level of common sense and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels. Initial salary £3,000-£3,500 plus mortgage allowance, contributory pension scheme, free life assurance, B.U.P.A. Applications in strict confidence, under reference PQA136/TT, to the Managing Director:

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL PERSONNEL,
35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH. Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. Telex 88772

REGISTRATION ASSISTANT,
19th Dec. to Jan., '76. Site
Construction work.
At: 435 Marylebone High St.
0206 or 405 4924.
1st MUSIC THEATRE
a Bay Surrogate for solo
of Benjamin Britten's
of the Secrecy, "The Rose
Cinderella" for perform-
and the Longest and the Short-
Please apply: English
Music Theatre, 100, Theatrical
House, Covent Garden,
2. Tel: 01-240 1200 (ext.
10).

EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL MANAGER
with 10 years' experience in
management with good education, **male**
and well motivated, and seeks
a new system company.
0427.
11 am.

FRANCE, intelligence male,
Bilingual French/English,
excellent spirit, for pop-music
industry, and marketing
sect. - Ring Nick, 603 7837.

ACP

PART-QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

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